



LAST DITCH BID TO HALT SOLAR FARM

Report by Sue Austin

A LAST ditch attempt to stop a solar farm being built in fields near Gobowen is being made with residents objecting to an 11th hour planning application for a telecommunication mast on the site.

Elgin Energy, which is developing the 20,000-panel farm at Rhosygadfa, wants to put up a 66-foot structure to allow the solar farm to communicate with an electricity substation a few miles away.

The application was made after the company discovered there was no broadband or a reliable enough wi-fi signal in the area.

It has warned it will lose a Government subsidy for the project if progress is not made by the end of March and says without that subsidy the project would be unviable. Local people are objecting to the mast, saying it would be a monstrosity that would be seen for miles around.

Base

Brian and Helen Case live near the planned solar farm where contractors have been putting down a base. Mr Case said: "This is a temporary application for up to three years. But as residents we all know that it is very unlikely that we will get superfast broadband. The application for planning permission to plonk a 66 foot mast in a field in Rhosygadfa will be objected to most strongly on grounds of visual impact amongst other reasons. This mast will be seen from the English and Welsh hills and as far away as Rodney's Pillar."

Gobowen Councillor David Lloyd said his phone had been red hot since news of the proposed mast had come to light. He said: "People are up in arms that this 'monstrosity' could be put up as part of this proposal. It will be 20 metres high, like a pylon. I have asked that the consultation period be extended because neither the parish council nor the local members had the notification – it went instead to Whittington Parish Council."

In a report to Shropshire Council, Nick Berry of consultants Berrys, on behalf of Elgin Energy, said that BT was unable to install a fibre connection before April. He added that Scottish Power would not accept a satellite broadband option because it was not reliable enough. He said: "The solar farm must be commissioned prior to March 31 as after this date a notable fall in the Renewable Obligation Certificates will render the project unviable. It is expected that BT will provide a fibre broadband connection at the site in the next six to 18 months and as such this application seeks a temporary permission only for a period of three years, to allow for any unexpected delays in the fibre connection."

Officials from Elgin Energy will visit Gobowen next week to hold an open meeting about the solar farm project. It takes place at Gobowen Pavilion on Tuesday at 7pm.

Art exhibition celebrates heritage of town



Work by artist Hilary Cowley Greer, including this sculpture called Embodiment, is part of the new exhibition at Oswestry. Photo: David Hamilton.

FROM King Arthur and Queen Guinevere inspired jewellery to abstract paintings and sunset photographs, artists have taken the heritage of Oswestry for their inspiration.

The latest exhibition at the Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre looks at the heritage of the area, focussing on its Iron Age hillfort.

Last year several artists took the ancient monument as a theme for a display as part of the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort weekend to protest about the possibility of housing being built in its hinterland.

Many of those pieces and some new ones form the exhibition which runs until February 25 in the centre.

The centre is an historic building in the grounds of St Oswald's Parish Church.

The exhibition has been set up to coincide with this year's Hug a Hillfort heritage weekend to be held in Oswestry in February.

One of the exhibitors, abstract artist Diana Baur, said that the new exhibition was to show more of the positive side of Oswestry's heritage rather than the threats to it.

She said: "We wanted to show what Oswestry has to offer. "It is a heritage gateway and has a wonderful history."

One of the displays is from artist, John Swogger, who has produced a fascinating collection of comic strips on Oswestry's heritage.

Diana said the artists had made links with the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort group which also wanted to become more positive rather than act as a protest organisation.

Another exhibitor is Graham Mitchell who has both photographs and a collection of jewellery on display.

"The jewellery was inspired by the legends of King Arthur and Guinevere – who is said to have been born on the hillfort," he said.

At last year's Hug a Hillfort weekend about 300 people descended upon Oswestry's famous landmark.

Young and old turned up to show their love for the Iron Age site.

They also stood together to spell out from above the letters 'HOOH' – standing for Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort – captured using a drone.

Plans for housing near the hillfort are being challenged by historians and local people who say the homes will damage views at the site.

TECHNOLOGY

Poor broadband speeds 'affecting student learning'

POOR broadband speeds have left a number of primary schools in Mid Wales facing issues using online learning resources.

It has emerged that there are at least six schools in Powys where broadband connectivity has affected resources for pupils. The figures were revealed when Montgomeryshire AM Russell George wrote to Education Secretary Kirsty Williams over a complaint he received from Ysgol Pontrobert in Meifod.

A letter from the school to Mr George, published by the Welsh Conservatives, said: "Internet speed is so slow here that we cannot achieve hardly any of our tasks from the new digital competency framework."

"It would take all morning to connect to Hwb (teaching resource) – which all Welsh pupils should be actively working on daily."

Mr George said it was unacceptable that hundreds of children across Wales were still at an educational disadvantage because of the problem.

He said: "Children from rural areas risk seriously falling behind in their learning unless they are afforded the same access to broadband as their urban equivalents."

In a written answer to Mr George, Mrs Williams said the vast majority of schools were in receipt of broadband speeds which will support the use of Hwb and other digital initiatives.

COUNCIL

New traveller site application lodged

PLANS for a new traveller/travelling showmen site are being considered by Shropshire Council.

The council is proposing to develop a small permanent site for families who currently live on temporary sites in North Shropshire.

It has submitted an application to its planning department for the change of use of Drenwydd at Park Hall, near Oswestry, for up to six pitches, along with two amenity blocks.

The project is part of the authority's remit to manage gipsy and traveller sites in the county.

INSIDE

Thug shoves car into canal



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TV presenter Nick in town to talk about his new book

Report by Naomi Penrose

TELEVISION presenter Nick Knowles will be launching his first book in Oswestry.

The DIY SOS television favourite will be at the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry on February 9 to launch Proper Healthy Food.

Organised by Booka Bookshop in Oswestry, the event will be in the style of 'an-evening-with' as Nick talks about the book.

Best known for building and renovating homes on DIY SOS, Nick has now turned his hand to nutrition and wellbeing following his life-changing BBC2 series The Retreat.

Nick said he was feeling unhealthy, out of shape and on the verge of burning out.

Determined to change his lifestyle, he travelled to Thailand with a camera crew and fellow DIY SOS stars Billy Byrne and Julian Perryman for a detox, involving a week-long fast followed by a purely vegan diet.

He lost nine kilos in three weeks, his cholesterol fell by a third and his blood pressure dropped to a healthy level.

It marked a turning point for Nick – a year on, he is now happier, healthier and fitter than ever.

The launch of his book also comes hot in the heels of him investing in vegan cafe and bistro O'Joy in Shrewsbury's Wyle Cop.

Carrie Morris, who owns Booka Bookshop in Church Street, said: "We're really pleased to be welcoming another household name to Oswestry, and will come at a perfect time for many who will be kicking off the new year with the mantra of new year, new me."

"We're also really thrilled to also be working with the restaurant Nick co-owns O'Joy on the following day when they will be hosting a lunch event.

"It's great that two independent businesses will be working together like this."

The talk will take place from 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £15 per person, which includes a signed copy of Proper Healthy Food or there's a £20 couples ticket, which admits two people and includes a signed copy of the book.

Tickets for the Nick Knowles event are available from Booka Bookshop or can be purchased via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-nick-knowles-tickets-30225456153>

Collision leads to closure of main route



The A5 near Oswestry was closed following a collision between a lorry and a van. Photo: @OPUShrpshire.

A MAN in his 20s was taken to hospital after his van was in collision with a lorry on the A5 near Oswestry.

The collision closed the road for several hours.

Emergency services were called to the crash which happened near to the Queens Head pub shortly after 3pm on Thursday last week. Jamie Arrowsmith, spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said the van driver suffered a leg injury and was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital by land ambulance. The air ambulance was called to the scene but was stood down shortly after arrival, he said.

West Mercia Police and Shropshire Fire

and Rescue Service were also at the scene. Meanwhile, tributes have been paid to a "fun-loving young lady" who died as a result of a crash on the Shropshire border.

The 24-year-old, who has been named locally as Tara Lear-Jones, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash on the A539 between Hanmer and Penley, near Ellesmere on Thursday last week.

Tara, originally from Wem, was a care worker from Phoenix Homecare, which has branches in Oswestry, Penley and Wem.

Paying tribute, a statement on behalf of the company said: "Tara was a very well-loved member of our staff.

"A chatty, energetic and fun-loving young

lady, who was devoted to her family, partner and her work; Tara lit up the lives of everyone she came into contact with.

"Everyone connected with Phoenix Homecare and Support Ltd will think the world is a darker place without her."

Investigations are continuing into the crash which involved her Vauxhall Corsa and happened shortly after 4.30pm on Thursday.

In a separate incident, one person was treated by an ambulance crew after a two-car crash.

The crash happened on the A483 at the crossroads in Llyncllys near Oswestry shortly after 7pm on Saturday.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tax rise is on the cards for residents

WELSHPOOL Town Council is proposing a council tax increase of around £7 per household.

The council discussed its budget for up until March 31, 2018, at a recent meeting.

Councillors were told there would be no provision for taking over any new services in the budget.

They heard that the budget only allowed for continuing all services the council currently delivers – including the day centre and toilets – as well as recently taking on street cleaning in the town, and planning a Festival of Sport.

Robert Robinson, clerk to Welshpool Town Council, said: "Anything new will have to be assessed on merit at the time. The issue of recycling is one such service the council is concerned about."

Road to close for broadband work

A ROAD will close for two days to allow contractors to carry out work for the roll-out of new fibre broadband services.

Weston Lane, in Oswestry, will be closed from Tuesday to Thursday.

The closure is to allow for work to be undertaken by BT Openreach.

A spokeswoman for BT Openreach said: "This is part of planned works to do with the roll-out of new fibre services. The work is being carried out by Openreach, who install and maintain the local network on behalf of all communications providers. Openreach apologies for any inconvenience caused during this work to provide new improved communications services for people."

Body found in search for man

A BODY has been found in the search for a missing jogger in Mid Wales.

Mountain rescue teams, firefighters, police and a drone had been searching for 51-year-old David Skeen, who went missing from his home in Talgarth, Powys last Tuesday after going for a morning run.

Dyfed-Powys Police released a statement on Saturday evening which said the body had not yet been formally identified by the family of Mr Skeen had been made aware of the development.

Work at hall set to start council told

WORK to demolish part of an historic hall could start within weeks.

Brogynryn Hall on the edge of Oswestry, once the home of the Harlech family, was used as a telecommunications base for many years before it was abandoned.

J Ross Developers plans to convert the Grade-II listed building into a smaller country house, turning its Home Farm into 11 new dwellings and building 50 houses.

The plans were approved two years ago but have been criticised by local people who recently launched an online petition to try to stop the work.

Shropshire Council has now received an application for permission and listed building consent for temporary work to dismantle a small section of stone boundary wall near to Oakhurst Lodge to allow vehicles to turn into the site safely while the development takes place.

A report to the council says: "Work is due to commence imminently on erecting scaffolding to the main hall with an estimated duration of eight to 10 weeks for this part of the works to be completed. The previously approved demolition works, to remove part of the east wing of the hall, will commence following the completion of the scaffolding works."

The work will continue for up to 18 months, after which the section of wall will be reinstated.

Food producers help dish up profit

FOOD produced on farms in Shropshire has helped a supermarket post sparkling Christmas sales.

Midcounties Co-operative, the UK's largest independent co-operative, saw sales grow by 3.6 per cent in the three weeks to December 31. And it says its policy of supporting the county's farms and food producers has tapped into a market that values home-grown food. There was a 42 per cent rise in the company's Best of Our Counties range of products, which includes locally-sourced products such as Shropshire Blue cheese from the Shropshire Cheese Company near Oswestry. Deputy chief executive Phil Ponsoby said: "Our rising sales over Christmas this year reflect the growing popularity of our stores and the quality of the product ranges we now offer. We've improved our product range, with our own locally sourced products."

Firm fined £180,000 after worker lost legs

Report by Elwyn Roberts

A COMPANY run by a prominent businessman and racehorse owner has been fined £180,000 after a worker lost both his legs.

Emrys Hughes, 65, was struck by a shovel loading machine at Sundorne Products (Llanidloes) Ltd, and had to have both legs amputated above the knees.

The company is run by director James Potter and his daughter Debbie, from Welshpool. The pair represented the company at Mold Crown Court on Friday last week, where the company was fined for breaching health and safety laws. It was also ordered to pay £7,650 costs.

Mr Hughes was hit as he walked into the yard in Bryn Posteg, Llanidloes, on November 16, 2015. He was badly injured and was in hospital until April last year. He has had to give up caring for his flock of sheep.

The court heard the yard was "an accident waiting to happen" because it had no system to separate pedestrians and moving vehicles and no pedestrian walkways.

Craig Morris, prosecuting, said the company fell well below the required standard and failed to implement practices recognised in the industry to keep pedestrians and vehicles apart. An investigator viewed CCTV footage from the yard for the previous two weeks and saw about 90 instances where there were moving vehicles in close proximity to pedestrians in the yard.

Judge Niclas Parry said the financial penalty was not intended to reflect the devastating injuries suffered by Mr Hughes and said the events which happened were "truly shocking".

Judge Parry said the driver of the loading shovel had been simply unaware of the presence of Mr Hughes. Mr Potter owns Potter's Recycling, which has bases in Welshpool and Newtown.

Ian Dixie, for the company, said it was accepted that Mr Hughes suffered life-changing injuries and they continued to support him until the civil claim was settled.

He said there had been no complaints by employees and the HSE had inspected the site and not drawn any issues to the company's attention. The directors believed that things were being dealt with properly but the accident brought home to them that they were not. It had brought about "a wholesale and rigorous look" at all systems within the company.

Medieval ring discovered in field



Metal detecting enthusiast Will Barker with the ring, and his dog, Sonic

A GOLD ring, believed to date back to pre 1300AD, has been unearthed by a metal detector enthusiast.

Will Barker had spent an afternoon with his friend, Chris Langstone, and dog, Sonic, in a field near Oswestry – the site of a deserted medieval village.

Their metal detecting had been in vain, with Will, 33, frustrated by several beeps from his detector which, when he investigated further, turned out to be because of "hot rocks" – those with particles of naturally occurring metals and minerals in them.

Then, just as they were giving up,

the machine emitted another signal.

He said: "After about two and a half hours of soul destroying signals from hot rock after hot rock on the surface and nicely hidden, I was ready to call it a day."

"We decided to head back towards the car as the sun was going down, and low and behold another 'hot rocky' signal and I thought, do I dig it or just leave it?"

He decided to dig and found what looked like a washer.

"As I rubbed the soil off the 'washer' I couldn't quite believe what I was seeing – a gold ring. We were both gobsmacked and pretty

much in shock as we stared at what appeared to be medieval ring with a stone setting – a medieval gold amethyst stirrup ring."

Will took the ring home and contacted Shropshire's finds liaison officer, Peter Reavill, who is based at Ludlow Museum.

"He seems to think it's high medieval 1150AD – 1300AD which would sit nicely with it being found at an abandoned medieval village."

"However others are thinking it may be Roman."

Will and Chris are to take the ring to the museum for recording and further analysis.

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Phyllis Rogers

Phyllis, 102, still keen on village life

AT the grand age of 102 Phyllis Rogers is still keenly interested in village life and loves nothing better than visits from her family, all five generations of them, and friends. Mrs Rogers spend her birthday last week reading scores of birthday cards and chatting to a stream of visitors who popped in to the Brook House Residential Home at Morda near Oswestry.

She grew up in a cottage on nearby Llyncllys Common and when her mother died at the age of 13 had to step in to help her father bring up her brothers and sisters. Granddaughter, Karen Rogers said: "There was no water at their home and she had to walk across the common every day to get water from the well." She married talented footballer,

Edward "Curly" Rogers who worked at Criggion Quarry and moved to Pant. She spent a lot of time helping out at the Pant Colts football club. "As well as her life revolving around football, I remember her being a wonderful cook," Karen said. "She made the best coffee and walnut cake and even make her own

ginger beer. She is such a kind lady, everyone loves her." Mrs Rogers had three children and has eight grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren. Karen said: "Her great great grandsons absolutely love their 'Nanny Two'. It was a name she was christened 36 years ago by my son. The name stuck."

Factory development starts despite planning wrangle

Report by Naomi Penrose

ONE of the region's biggest employers has started building an extension to its factory on the Shropshire border – despite being refused planning permission.

Work has started on an extension at wood panel manufacturer Kronospan's factory in Chirk to house a new melamine facing press. It comes despite Wrexham County Borough Council refusing planning permission for the development in September. The company has appealed to the Welsh Government to overturn the decision, but construction work has already started. Officials at the factory have said if the appeal is upheld, the effect would be to grant retrospective planning permission.

Celebration to take place

A COUNCIL voted the best in Britain is to hold an event to thank all those who helped it achieve the award.

Oswestry Town Council is organising a celebration to thank its partners for the work and influence they have on the services it provides.

The event will be linked with another celebration to mark first place in the National Association of Local Councils "Star Council of the Year" competition.

A date has not yet been set for the event but it is likely to take place in the Attfield Theatre at the Guildhall.

Organisations ranging from In Bloom, garden allotment societies, and the museum and cemetery research project will be invited.

Members of the livestock auction group, the tourism association, the theatre group and charities such as rotary and the Royal British Legion will also be asked to attend.

Two separate applications were submitted by the company to the borough council last year.

The first proposed building an extension to store medium density fire board and chipboard, 150 metres long and 29 metres wide. A second application was for an extension to house a new melamine press.

Both were refused over the visual impact on the locality including the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct World Heritage Site.

Kronospan chairman Mike McKenna said: "Kronospan was disappointed with the decision of the planning committee to refuse the application, despite a recommendation by the council's planning department to grant planning permission.

"The development forms part of the ongoing improvements to the plant which are being undertaken to secure the long term future of the business and also deliver environmental benefits to the local area.

"As such Kronospan have decided to appeal to the Welsh Government against the decision of the council."

In recent months Kronospan has been at the centre of controversy with Chirk residents concerned about dust and pollution.

Rod's fundraising challenge



Rod Evans from St Martins has been fundraising for air ambulance charities

A CYCLIST who has been fundraising for charity for 15 years has taken on three "epic challenges" to raise vital funds for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and Wales Air Ambulance Charity.

Rod Evans, 38, suffers from type one diabetes, but that hasn't prevented him from completing the three gruelling challenges.

He has cycled 400 miles across Wales, climbed Mount Snowdon and taken on speeds of up to 100mph in the world's fastest zip wire challenge – all to raise funds for the two charities.

Rod, from St Martins, near Oswestry,

said: "My nan always used to donate to the air ambulance charities, so in 2014, for what would have been her 100th birthday, I decided to cycle 100 miles to raise funds in her memory. I enjoyed it so much that I organised 'Rod's Tour of Wales' last year, cycling another 250 miles across the county.

"This year, I wanted to take it one step further and the three 'epic challenges' have helped me to raise further vital funds."

To date, Rod has raised over £1,100 for the charity which has funded lifesaving equipment for future air ambulance missions.

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Man jailed for 10 years for two stabbing attacks

Report by Arthur Mills

A MAN involved in two attacks in which the victims were stabbed with a knife and a broken bottle has been jailed for a total of 10 years.

The 44-year-old victim of the knife attack had to have his spleen and a kidney removed to save his life.

The other victim needed 40 stitches to wounds to his shoulder and chest caused by the broken bottle. Both attacks happened in Oswestry, a crown court was told.

Arsene Cubaka, 24, was jailed for eight years for wounding Barry Wright with intent in January last year. He was given a further two-year sentence for wounding Iran Lane during another disturbance in Oswestry in December 2015.

League hit with fine for rules breach

A GRASSROOTS football league has been hit with a £1,000 fine for allowing matches to be played on the same day as a Wales World Cup qualifier.

A number of JT Hughes Montgomeryshire Amateur League matches were played on November 12 – the same day as Wales hosted a World Cup qualifier in Cardiff against Serbia.

It is a breach of Football Association of Wales (FAW) regulations that tell all local football leagues to leave the day blank, and the fine has since been issued by Central Wales Football Association. But sources close to the league have insisted they were unaware that scheduling the matches broke the regulation, and said that it was at the request of the clubs that the games were played that day.

Local officials called an emergency meeting where clubs were told the news in person, and informed that £800 of the fine would be suspended, leaving only £200 to be paid.

Nobody from the league was prepared to comment on the record.

The league has a chance to appeal the fine, but it is not thought at this time that they will take this action.

David Hinton-Jones, general secretary for Central Wales Football Association, said he believed most clubs and leagues were aware of the regulation.

He said: "This is an FAW rule which has been in place since at least 2010."

Thug shoves car into canal



Mike Bowen's submerged car in the canal near Chirk

THIS is the scene just moments after Mike Bowen watched in horror as his car was pushed into the canal near Chirk before the perpetrator calmly got back into his own vehicle and drove off.

Mr Bowen's red Citroen C1 was soon submerged following the mindless act at the canal, and now officers are looking to trace the man responsible.

Mr Bowen says he remains in disbelief as to why anyone would do it.

He said: "I still can't get my head around why this happened. My wife and I were walking our two dogs along the canal, as we do every evening but decided to cut it short because of how cold it was.

"On our way back to the car, we were able to see our car in the distance. I noticed

there was a man standing nearby but didn't give it much thought while I was talking to my wife but as I looked back at my car it seemed to be at a strange angle and then I realised it was moving and this bloke was pushing it. I started shouting for him to stop and began running towards him still with the dogs on leads. It was weird – it just rolled straight in and started bobbing on the water."

The incident happened at about 4.30pm on Thursday, before the man drove off towards the direction of the A5. Mr Bowen, 61, said the car he was driving was a brown/gold colour.

Mr Bowen also said he is looking to track down a couple who were walking two cocker spaniels at the time along the canal.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

I'm now four weeks into my new life as a county councillor and it's only fair to say that things have been moving a little too slowly for my liking. After the hectic hurly burly of daily deadlines in my previous life in the world of newspapers it seems things move at a more leisurely pace in local politics and it looks like it will take me a little time to adjust. That's if I ever do adjust. My election by the good people of Welshpool to serve on Powys County Council couldn't have come at a worse time. The December 15 poll came just before life at the council went on hold for the Christmas and New Year break – a little frustrating for someone used to working flat out through the festive period. A quickly arranged induction at least ensured my arrival had been duly noted but it took another two weeks to gain access to the council's Intranet system and the basic information about where I should and shouldn't be. That was a full three weeks after the by-election. Next week I'll attend my first meeting of the Montgomeryshire Committee and the following week I will experience my first full council meeting which should see things starting to warm up. There's a lot going on that will impact on the lives of the people of Welshpool and I'm keen to keep promises I made during the election campaign by representing their views as forcefully as I am allowed to. But I think I will need to be a little bit more patient in this new world.

I'm right behind Councillor Steve Charnley, Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council, who described a new £50,000 scheme for a new bollard system in Oswestry's often deserted Cross Street as "bonkers". Since the county authority made Cross Street traffic-free between 10am and 4pm from Monday to Saturday it has been paying the town council to put the bollards up and down. Now the plan is to automate the system at a one-off cost of £50,000.

Let's go with Mr Charnley's idea. Take the bollards out for six months and let's just see what happens.

Welshpool residents are really starting to notice a difference in the appearance of their streets since the town council took over responsibility from Powys County Council. In the last couple of weeks I've received numerous comments, praising the staff for their diligence. It was a bold move by the town council after the county authority refused to guarantee it could maintain standards, but it was a move that is paying dividends now.

Several cases of fly-tipping have been quickly cleared and a general daily tidy-up of the town has been welcomed by residents.



Welshpool Mayor Steve Kaye urges people to look at the positives in 2017



The future impact of wind farms on Mid Wales still remains to be seen



Welshpool Town Council stepped in to run the Westwood Day Centre

Exciting time awaits for town this year says mayor

NAOMI PENROSE chats to Welshpool Mayor Steve Kaye about the coming 12 months

IT'S one of the most beautiful, tourist friendly parts of our region for its remoteness – but that rurality also poses challenges for the area.

Powys covers the historic counties of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire, and most of Brecknockshire and an area spanning 2,000 sq miles – making it the largest unitary authority in Wales.

Steeped in history and adored by tourists for its stunning countryside, the region has plenty going for it, with its larger towns currently enjoying a wave of interest from national companies such as Aldi, B&M, Greggs and KFC, who have or are in the process of opening.

Attention

Welshpool in particular is enjoying the attention from the big household names, with Mayor, Councillor Steve Kaye excited at the prospect of increased footfall in the town, ahead of Aldi and B&M opening their doors.

He said: "2017 is going to be a crucial year for Welshpool, especially business wise."

"We've got the likes of Aldi and B&M opening up in the new year, and from the research Aldi had been doing while it was getting its plans sorted, they predict an additional 20,000 shoppers will come and shop in the town, once its opened up."

"20,000 extra shoppers is a really exciting figure and one that will encourage us to ensure our main shopping streets are more attractive, particularly for tourists coming here."



Welshpool Carnival is always strongly supported by the community

Councillor Kaye also said 2017 would be the year the region sees further progress with the restoration of the picturesque Montgomery Canal.

About 50 per cent of the canal has already been restored but in the new year, work is due to start to restore another part, which is expected to be completed by 2020.

Vital

Over the past year Welshpool has also been considered as an example to other towns of how to save vital services and facilities in the wake of crippling cash cuts.

While public buildings close or face the axe across Shropshire, Welshpool says its experience proves that it doesn't have to be that way.

Not only have the toilets remained

open in the town, it now doesn't cost anything to spend a penny.

The town's tourist information centre is thriving, with a third more visitors through its doors in recent months.

And when Welshpool's day centre was threatened with closure, Welshpool Town Council stepped in to run it, the first in Britain to run such a service.

The town council has taken over a host of services that would have been otherwise lost because of Powys County Council's financial straits.

This year its town clerk, Robert Robinson, talked to other Welsh towns about Welshpool's success.

The secret of success, he says, is not rocket science.

He says it is running the town council like a business yet still ensuring the community's needs are met.

Welshpool Town Council is responsi-

ble for buildings including the town hall, a recreation complex, the public toilets and the council offices as well as outdoor facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields and open spaces, a country park, allotments, flower beds, a memorial garden, a bus shelter, a war memorial and a motte and bailey castle.

It runs the town market and hosts events from the Welshpool Air Show to the carnival and winter festival.

While more recently the town council has taken over the town's street cleaning services.

As well as the region's positives, there are issues it faces largely down to its rurality, including poor mobile phone coverage and not having its own major hospital, having to rely on services over the border in Shropshire.

Services

Residents in Mid Wales have been calling for accident and emergency services to remain in Shrewsbury, and after the latest stall in the process Councillor Kaye says Shropshire's Future Fit NHS shake-up must go ahead.

He said: "It's high-time things move forward, years have been wasted, millions of pounds have been wasted."

"It's time we had some decisions."

The region is also waiting on finding out whether a public inquiry into plans to build two wind farms in Llanbryn-mair and Carnedd Wen will reopen.

Proposals to build the wind farms, which were thrown out by the government last year, could be revived, with inspectors currently looking at representations from councils, developers and energy companies.

Despite some uncertainty ahead, Councillor Kaye has urged people to look at the positives.

He said: "There are some challenges ahead, more cuts are coming but we need to focus on what we do have, and ensure we're doing all we can to bring people here. All in all, for Welshpool especially, I'd say steady as she goes."

WORKING FOR YOU



As we welcome in the New Year we can also welcome the most recent economic data, which further debunks Project Fear along with its doom and gloom predictions since the Brexit vote last June. The Centre for Business Research at the University of Cambridge have released a report which criticises the predictions that came from the Treasury in the run-up to the referendum. Graham Gudgeon, one of the authors of the report, wrote that they found what the Treasury had said was very flawed and very partisan.

Britain begins 2017 as the world's strongest advanced economy. In 2016 we grew faster than each of the G7 countries including Germany, Japan and the United States. We ended the year with business activity hitting a 17-month high, just six months after the referendum result. Survey data shows that UK manufacturing expanded at its fastest pace for two and a half years in December. Our services sector, the largest in our economy, also expanded as employers hired more people to keep up with new orders. This is largely due to a boost in construction and an increase in exports. Manufacturing and exports seem to be responding well to a fall in the pound as a weaker sterling boosts the competitiveness of our products and services abroad. Our manufacturing sector is responding to the fastest rates of expansion in output and new orders seen in 25 years. Most of our manufacturing sector is high-tech, including companies such as Dyson and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR).

UK car production is continuing to rise, in November hitting a 17-year high. Last year JLR recorded a 77 per cent growth in sales for Jaguar and an eight per cent rise for Land Rover, selling 583,313 vehicles globally. They are seeking to build a new site in the West Midlands, creating 10,000 new jobs to make electric cars and batteries. I have written to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy suggesting Clive Barracks at Tern Hill as a potential location.

It is uncertainty that will damage our economy in the long-run. The Prime Minister was clear before the end of 2016 that a timetable has been set; we will trigger Article 50 by the end of March, pass a Great Repeal Bill in the summer and we will leave the European Union by March 2019. Entering 2017 in a position of economic strength gives us an advantage in these negotiations. This will be in addition to the upcoming elections in the Netherlands, France and Germany where many of the voting public owe their jobs directly to the UK for sales of their exports.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

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Letters

Use palace repair cash to help homeless

ON a recent trip to London I couldn't help but notice many homeless people living on the streets.

What saddened me was the number of young men and women, some of them barely out of their teens who were unfortunately enough to find themselves homeless.

One young man aged 18 whom I spoke to told me he had spent the night in a skip. He was tired, cold and hungry.

Many others I witnessed were sleeping on cardboard laid out on the street and another man sitting on a plastic bag in the rain.

I cannot believe that in the 21st century

this is allowed to go on. If these people were the elderly they would be taken into a place of safety and cared for by the local authority, animals have a better chance of being rescued.

Just because they are young doesn't mean they are not as vulnerable as an elderly person. I realise that it is difficult sometimes to know who is genuinely homeless and who is not but anyone who is exposed to the elements and sleeps in a skip or a cardboard box must be genuine.

There is a great divide in London as in many other towns and cities where on the one hand there are human beings forgotten

by the system that should be taking care of them and have let them down badly socially, economically and environmentally. On the other hand there are those people with more money than sense who see them as vermin and pass them by as if they do not exist.

It would be a good thing if instead of the taxpayers of this country being asked to pay millions towards the cost of repairs to Buckingham Palace this money be used to fund empty buildings where homeless people can find shelter and a place of safety.

PEARL DUNBAR
Shrewsbury

EU policy on immigration could be seen as real racism

SEVERAL pro-Remain correspondents seem to be adopting the widely-used tactic of closing down any debate developing in a direction they don't like by accusing their opponents of racism.

In many ways the EU policy towards migration is far more racist than that supported by most Brexiters in that gaining legal access to live in Britain is far easier if you are a native of Europe (and therefore likely to be white) than if you are from Africa or Asia (and therefore likely not to be).

This is irrespective of your ability to speak English, your skills, your qualifications, and how much they are needed in our economy. By any normal definition this would seem to me to be racism, although supporters of the EU tend to have a rather Alice-in-Wonderland attitude to words best summed up in the quotation "When I use a word it means precisely what I intend it to mean - neither more nor less."

As a small boy staying with my grandparents in the 1950s, I remember hearing a prominent politician on a television current affairs programme pointing out that Great Britain was the only major country in the world that during the last 200 years had not been occupied by a hostile foreign power, had not been ruled by an absolute dictator, and had not suffered a civil war.

I wonder if this is why so comparatively small a proportion of our population feels willing to give up their freedoms to support the ideal of the European Union.

DAVID BURTON
Wellington

Delay tactics by the UK elite

THE delaying tactics of Mrs May in not signing Article 50 allowed the Remainists time to reform and attack Brexit.

Was this delay by Mrs May a deliberate act to give them this chance?

Nothing would amaze me as I have yet to find an honest politician.

We were invited by the government (that is our MPs) to vote for our destiny.

Two very simple words were required, in or out.

And nothing could be more simple than that.

But simplicity is something our MPs will never understand.

There must always be a long and convoluted answer which means more committees to sit on and extra pay.

That is why MPs do not do simplicity, it gets in the way of their earnings.

It just shows that three judges have more power than more than 17 million voters.

If this is the case why do we bother with elections?

This is the establishment weaving their web of deceit.

They will fight our free press from publishing anything that might be derogatory or show them in a bad light in any form.

Democracy is in the hands of the people not the establishment, one person, one vote.

K BEDDIS
Yockleton

Reader asks for help to identify old photo



Nigel Walters of Oswestry has emailed in this old view of the town. "I wonder if any of your readers know where this photo was taken?" he says, giving a date of the 1960s for the photo. The word "Co-Op" can be read on the building on the extreme right.

Give passengers the train service they really deserve

'LET the train take the strain' was the call as cars were to be abandoned and public transport embraced.

Now, it's the purse and the passengers, who take the strain as overcrowded, overpriced trains go on their way, unless the wrong snow/rain or something else delays or stops it. Many found the day exhausted and just wanted to sit and relax, others wanted to arrive, still feel fresh are ready for a day's work or for other activities, some hope. No, the over long promised electrification of the remaining routes are once again delayed for lack of cash - if it's lacking now, it will be later as costs rise and the financial strain on services bites even deeper. Stop delaying, bite the cherry, give passengers the services they urgently need, not just want, before more people turn back to cars and add to the miles of slow moving traffic. Don't knock down newly built estates, devastate the towns and villages, destroy the countryside and all it holds. Improve life for thousands of commuters.

B A FLOWERS
Newport

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Redistribute to make it fair

I WANT to live in a more equal, tolerant and fair society rather than our present divided country where the poor are expected to work harder and pay more for basic services whilst the rich get ever richer and our public services are privatised and impoverished.

To do this we only need to redistribute the wealth that is accumulating ever faster into the hands of those that already have plenty and redirect it to the poorest.

ANGIE ZELTER
Knighton

Farage has not made anything in the UK better

I READ a letter suggesting Nigel Farage should be given some sort of political or public reward because, wait for it, he has upset the establishment.

He tried to win a seat in Westminster several times but the voters rejected him. For years he has led Ukip which is now in a shambolic state.

He made a career of insulting people who we now need to negotiate with. I cannot think of anyone who has done more in recent years to sour race relations. The Brexit mess we are in looks increasingly serious and could result in the break-up of the UK.

Nearly every day new alarm bells are ringing over our economic future. Yes we have to agree Mr Farage has upset the establishment but he has not made anything better.

Perhaps many of those who thought leaving the EU would lead to Utopia are now having doubts.

If there are hard times ahead we will all know where the blame lies.

PETE DAVIES
Pant

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wildlife expert to give garden talk

A GROUP of wildlife enthusiasts will meet in the new year to learn about the importance of garden birdwatchers.

The Three Parishes Community Wildlife Group will hear a talk from expert Claire Backshall at its next meeting.

The group's meeting will take place on January 19.

Claire will host an in-depth discussion on "why garden birdwatchers are important".

The meeting will take place in the Methodist Church Hall in Ellesmere Road, St Martins.

Starting at 7pm, the aim of the group is to give local people interested in wildlife a chance to meet other like-minded people.

Tea, coffee and refreshments will also be served at the meeting.

Admission to the talk costs £2.

All are welcome.

For further details contact Polly on (01691) 239087 or email polly.j.smith@hotmail.co.uk

Tributes are paid to popular David

A POPULAR man who loved cricket has died at the age of 64.

David Roberts, who had Down's Syndrome, lived at Windsor House in Oswestry, a home for people with disabilities, for more than 20 years and his sister said it had given him a new lease of life.

He was born in Weston Rhyn and helped to run his family's smallholding.

His mother, Eva, cared for him until she herself, became frail.

Daphne Young, David's sister, said: "He moved into Windsor House when he was 42 and it opened up a whole new world for him."

Mrs Young said her brother's funeral would be held today (Thursday) at 2.30pm at St John's Church in Weston Rhyn.

Equipment handed over to sports organisation

Report by Sue Austin

A CHARITY set up in the wake of a record breaking 53 marathons challenge has presented sports equipment to a special Olympics group.

Amy Hughes, the Oswestry endurance athlete, ran 53 marathons in 53 days in 2014 to inspire women to take part in sport.

After completing the feat she co-funded with Dave Keighley, The 53 Foundation, a charity that aims to enable active opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in, to gain confidence from and to make friends through sport.

Recently representatives of the foundation were in Oswestry to present a host of equipment to the Special Olympics North Shropshire group. The equipment included a new competition standard table tennis table, plus net and bats and competition standard boccia balls.

Special Olympics North Shropshire was formed in 1989 and provides training with qualified coaches in badminton, swimming and table tennis at Oswestry Leisure Centre on Mondays from 5pm to 7.30pm.

It also runs basketball sessions during winter months and athletics in the summer from 7pm to 8pm on Wednesdays at Moreton Hall School, and boccia, a special bowls sport, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm on Wednesdays at The Venue, Park Hall.

The athletes include medal winners from world championships.

They are currently in training for the Special Olympics Great Britain National Games to be held in Sheffield during August 2017.

Its chairman, Brian Johnson, said: "We are very grateful to The 53 Foundation charity for providing the table tennis table and boccia balls which is much appreciated by our athletes."



Nigel Keighley, a trustee of the 53 Foundation, and his grandson Dylan presented the equipment to coaches and athletes from the Special Olympics North Shropshire group

Film shows pine marten in the region

CAPTIVATING video footage of England's only confirmed population of rare pine marten has been captured in Shropshire - centuries after they were feared extinct.

The video suggests the elusive domestic cat-sized member of the stoat and weasel family may have been living in the wooded Shropshire hills for years undiscovered.

Now scientists are going to study the mammals' DNA in an effort to establish if the family of five plus has been brought into Shropshire illegally, or if the species has lived happily in the Shropshire hills and woods undiscovered for decades or even longer.

Stuart Edmunds, of Shropshire Wildlife Trust, managed to capture one of the elusive mammals that are mainly nocturnal in daylight on video.

Last year amateur wildlife recorder, Dave Pearce, took two photographs of the dark brown creature thought to be extinct in a wood in south-west Shropshire and the new video is now conclusive proof of their existence.

The exact location is being kept secret but it is thought to be close to the Welsh border.

Library group can help reading skills

OSWESTRY Library can help people increase and improve their reading through its monthly Quick Reads Book Club.

Aimed at readers short of confidence or concentration, the club offers free loans of enjoyable, short reads by popular authors. A friendly group of members meets once a month to chat about the featured book over a cup of tea and to borrow the next title for free. New members are always welcome and the next meeting takes place from 1pm to 2pm at the library on Tuesday.

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Old shrine now has a new guardian

A LARGE congregation welcomed the new guardian of an ancient church which has been a place of pilgrimage for many centuries.

Reverend Christine Browne has started her new ministry as the Priest Guardian of the Shrine Church at St Melangell, Llangynog, near Oswestry.

The Bishop of St Asaph, Dr Gregory Cameron, who led the service, said: "The ministry of Pennant Melangell is special and distinctive, so we are pleased that we have someone who can resonate with that tradition in the new Shrine Priest. Christine will be working hard to welcome many to this ancient sanctuary." He said Christine's gifts of spirituality, healing and chaplaincy will develop the ministry to the wide range of people who journey to the remote spot nestling in the Berwyns. Christine said: "I'm delighted to have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of all those who have developed the vision and outreach of the church down the years since St Melangell came to this valley." Christine was ordained deacon in 1990, having previously taught in Yorkshire and London and later became one of the first women priests in the Church of England.

Spiritual centre to meet up again

OSWESTRY Spiritual Centre opens its doors for 2017 this evening (Thursday).

The group will welcome Trinity Rose Williams as its guest medium.

The centre meets at the Cambrian Room in Oswestry's Memorial Hall. There will be a 7.30pm start and doors are open at 7pm. The cost is £3.50.

Spiritual and reiki healing is available after the demonstration.

Brownies bury capsule at homes development

Report by Naomi Penrose

A BROWNIE group from Oswestry has buried a time capsule at David Wilson Homes' Montgomery Place development on Morda Road.

David Wilson Homes Mercia invited the girls from the Oswestry Brownies to its development, Montgomery Place, to leave their memories in the ground for years to come.

The group filled the capsule, to be opened in 50 years' time, with a variety of items they collected to represent the local area and their unit. Eleanor Davies, leader of the Oswestry Brownie group, said: "We were delighted to be chosen to bury a time capsule and the girls have enjoyed writing about themselves and collecting items to put into the tube."

"We hope that when the tube is opened in any years to come that the recipients will also enjoy the contents." Brownie Bethan Miller said: "I wrote about myself and included a coin dated 2016." Brownie Darcey Edwards said: "I also wrote about myself and what is popular in 2016." Brownie Felicity Davies said: "It was a very windy day, but I was excited to be burying the time capsule. I included this week's Radio Times as it has a lot of up to date information for the week we buried the time capsule."

Sharon Price, sales adviser at the David Wilson Homes Montgomery Place development, said: "We were delighted to welcome the Brownies to Montgomery Place. They have created a brilliant snapshot of life at the time the development is being built, filling the capsule with interesting items which I'm sure people will be thrilled to uncover in years to come."



The Brownies bury the time capsule with the help of Sharon Price from David Wilson Homes

NEWS IN BRIEF

Volunteers needed for hedge-laying

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help lay the hedge at St John's Church at Ruyton XI Towns near Oswestry.

Caring for God's Acre Churchyard Task Team will be hedge-laying at Ruyton on Monday. Ben Mullen, volunteer co-ordinator, said: "Hedge-laying is a method of preserving and rejuvenating hedgerows and is a fantastic way for volunteers to learn and get involved in a traditional countryside skill. We'll be using hand tools such as bowsaws and billhooks on this small hedge. Everyone is welcome and training and advice will be given to anyone not familiar with hedge-laying or tool use."

To help with the hedge-laying at Ruyton XI Towns, people should meet at the church at 10am on Monday. Refreshments will be provided and the work will be finished by 3pm. The team will also be there on January 30 and February 13.

More details area available by emailing info@cfaa.org.uk or calling (01588) 673041.

Level of winter deaths revealed

THERE were more than 500 deaths in Shropshire in the winter of 2014/15 – a 200 per cent increase on the previous year, new figures have revealed.

The total number of excess "winter deaths" across the UK as a whole during 2014/15 was 43,850, the highest level seen in over 15 years. There were 510 in Shropshire. The increase has been largely attributed to the failure of the flu vaccine which experts say was only effective in one in three cases. Excess winter deaths are defined as the difference between the number of deaths in the winter months – December to March – compared with the previous three months before it and the following three months.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting will look at 1940s weekend

THE business community and voluntary groups and organisations are invited to a meeting at the Corn Exchange in Welshpool this evening (Thursday) to find out how the Welshpool 1940s Weekend can help their business or organisation.

The meeting will take place at 6pm and refreshments will be available.

This year the 1940s weekend will take place over the weekend of Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1 inclusive and all ready promises to be bigger and better than previous years. Forthcoming fundraising events include a craft fair in the Corn Exchange on January 28, a prize bingo evening in the Town Hall on February 7, a race night in the Church House on February 11 and a vintage 1950s-70s music evening on 18th February 18. Information can be found on Facebook – Welshpool Forties Weekend.

Thieves target van and village sheds

THIEVES struck in a Mid Wales village during the festive break.

Officers at Dyfed Powys Police are investigating a number of burglaries from sheds and garages in Llangynog.

Several premises were broken into overnight on December 23 and 24, officers have said.

Officers say anyone who saw anything suspicious or who may have information about tools and equipment being sold should contact Welshpool police on 101.

Meanwhile a thief targeted a van in Welshpool at the beginning of the year.

Power tools were stolen from the van in the Little Henfaes Drive area of Welshpool. The break-in was discovered on Tuesday last week.

Manufacturing firm hits magic million mark

Report by Thom Kennedy

DRIVE manufacturer Invertek has hit an historic milestone, after selling its one millionth product.

The company, which is headquartered in Welshpool, produces around 160,000 of its variable frequency drives each year, with an annual growth rate in production of more than 20 per cent.

They are used in general automation, pump control, HVAC building services, elevators and marine equipment. It has now passed the significant milestone, and believes that plans for expansion which are now underway could help it reach the two million mark far quicker.

Rhydian Welson, Invertek's sales and marketing director, said: "From humble beginnings back in 1998 when the company was formed, it is still hard to believe that we have just sold our one millionth variable frequency drive. We have worked hard over the years to develop partnerships both in the UK and overseas which enables us to sell our products in more than 80 countries worldwide and offer all customers the same high level of service through our dedicated distributors." To meet growing demand, Invertek is investing in a new 5,000 square metre factory, beside the company's current headquarters in Welshpool, allowing it to produce more than of 400,000 drives per year. The new facility will also lead to increased capacity for its larger power drives. Rhydian added: "Scheduled to open in 2018, the new factory will ensure Invertek continues to be the variable frequency drive supplier of choice throughout the world."

Puppy reaction makes Seren internet hit



Seren cuddles the new puppy at her home in Welshpool

A YOUNGSTER'S adorable reaction to her early Christmas present has cemented her status as an internet sensation and who can blame her – the present was a baby sausage dog.

The heart-warming moment 10-year-old Seren was shown her four-legged gift in the bath of her home in Welshpool was captured on camera by her father, and now the footage has been shared thousands of times.

The video only lasts one minute and 20 seconds but in that short space of time shows Seren go through a range of emotions, from shock and tears to delighted laughter.

The footage shows confused Seren walking into the bathroom, before her father tells her to turn round and she sees the tiny dog.

When she notices the tiny dog standing in the bath, she shrieks and asks whether it's a joke.

Her father replies: "It's yours - Happy Christmas."

A huge smile then breaks over Seren's face as she begins to cry with tears of joy.

She leans over the bathtub to greet her new furry friend as the tears stream down her face.

Seren then sits down to hold and stroke the puppy.

Last chance to give view on budget

POWYS residents only have a few days to comment on how the county council reduces its spending by £22m over three financial years with an on-line budget balancing exercise.

The online consultation, which started last month, will close on Sunday. The consultation sets out a range of options that could be used to generate savings over the coming three financial years. Residents can show their support for services by increasing or decreasing funding support and seeing the impact on the service and council's overall budget. Cllr Wynne Jones, Deputy Leader, said: "The council has to produce a balanced budget. This is an opportunity for residents to see the challenges we face and show their support for service areas by allocating money to one area balanced with a reduction from another."

"The information provided by residents will prove valuable information for both the cabinet and the council, as it will show where residents think the savings should be made, in order to achieve the £22m target."

The budget simulator is on the council's website.

Pick up top tips on dressmaking

DRESSMAKING classes are being held in Llanymynech near Welshpool.

The classes take place at Llanymynech Village Hall with sessions held on a Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9pm and on a Thursday from 11am to 12.30pm.

It costs £50 for 10 classes.

For more details or to book a place, contact the tutor on (01691) 839286 or through www.sarahthursfield.com.

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Plans lodged for new use for chapel

PLANS have been lodged for a chapel to be converted into a home.

Edgerley Methodist Chapel, near Oswestry, until recently was still open for worship but now applicant Edward Phipps has submitted plans with Shropshire Council to change it from a chapel to a dwelling. Mr Phipps has appointed Ellesmere-based Greenspace Architects to transform the chapel, which was built in 1860.

Mr Phipps says in a design and access statement: "The proposals to convert the existing building to a small dwelling aim to preserve the existing character of the original chapel by maintaining the original form and adding a small side extension using complementary materials in a modern way to allow the former chapel to read as the dominant structure. The proposals include work to conserve the existing building which will include replacing the sash windows in poor condition but to keep the existing character and the coloured glass to the upper sashes."

Villagers hoping for defibrillators

SEVERAL villages are working hard to get heart defibrillators installed within the community.

Residents in Pant and Llanymynech, Llansantffraid and Kinnerley, near Oswestry, are being urged to help with the fundraising for the machines, which cost more than £1,000.

Councillor Dilys Gaskill, chair of Pant and Llanymynech Parish Council, said a public meeting held recently was very successful and that there were plans to organise a fundraising event. In Llansantffraid, the local Costcutter store is working with the community council with each hoping to raise £750 for a defibrillator. The store has already raised £250.

Councillors in Kinnerley have agreed to look at how they could help get a machine for the village.

Dame Agnes birthday surprise for researchers

Report by Naomi Penrose

"I WAS born in 1867," so says Dame Agnes Hunt at the start of her famed autobiography, This Is My Life.

Except, it now transpires, she wasn't – she's in fact a year older.

And that has come as quite a surprise to officials at Oswestry's Orthopaedic Hospital, who are planning a year of celebration throughout 2017 to mark what they thought was the 150th anniversary of her birth and the 160th anniversary of the birth of her co-founder Sir Robert Jones.

Marie Carter, archives officer at hospital, said: "We knew she was born on New Year's Eve and, taking our cue from her own book, we always assumed she was born in 1867, so the 150th anniversary would have been at the end of next year.

"But it was a research student who told me the Dictionary of National Biography had her birth date listed as being 1866.

"I thought this must have been a mistake – even the order of service for Dame Agnes's funeral in 1948 gave her birth date as December 31, 1867.

"But, just to make sure, I ordered a copy of her birth certificate – and there it was: 1866."

Despite the surprising revelation, hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth said the hospital would be continuing its own planned activities in 2017.

Agnes Hunt was also a founder of Derwen College, situated next door to the hospital and who are preparing festivities of their own to celebrate their 90th anniversary.

Ruth Thomas, chief executive of Derwen College, said: "In the midst of our preparations for our 90th birthday celebrations we have been looking through the archives as we are really keen to share our story and how we were founded in 1927."



Under the watchful eye of Dame Agnes Hunt's portrait in the boardroom at the hospital, and with the newly-discovered birth certificate are, from left, Ruth Thomas, CEO of Derwen College, Meryl Green, principal of Derwen College, Mark Brandreth, chief executive of the hospital and Marie Carter, the hospital's archives officer

Keep an eye on elderly, says mayor

THE Mayor of Oswestry Paul Milner is urging householders to keep an eye on their elderly neighbours during the winter, especially when cold weather hits.

Councillor Paul Milner said: "It is important that people pop around to see their elderly neighbours to make sure they are OK.

"You could also offer them a drink or some hot food to make sure they are warm enough, particularly those with mobility problems.

"They need to be in a house which is at a temperature of at least 18 or 19 C.

"There is great community spirit in Oswestry which I saw for myself on Christmas Day when I helped serve vegetables to people suffering from social isolation at a Chalk social enterprise.

"There was a really good turn out of people who put others before themselves."

Dr Thomas Waite, consultant in extreme events at Public Health England said: "The effects of cold can be severe, in particular for those who are over 65, have a long term illness, or are not mobile."

Society to meet for the first time

THE first meeting of North Shropshire Epilepsy Society will take place in the next week.

Epileptics, along with their family and carers, are invited to the group meeting.

The meeting will take place at Oswestry Memorial Hall.

It will take place on Tuesday between 2pm and 4pm.

For further details about the group are available by calling Maxwell Bussey on (01691) 623919 or emailing northshropshireepilepsysociety@gmail.com

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As a forward-looking school, where academic success and extra-curricular achievement are valued equally, Moreton Hall's holistic approach to education – engendered in a predominantly boarding environment – allows all individuals to fulfil their potential and to develop skills and qualities to enter the adult world.

Academically, Moreton has also recently been confirmed as the number one non-selective school in the UK by The Sunday Times and given that it's a non-selective school – it is all the more impressive!

Moreton has also enjoyed significant success in individual academic competitions. To pick out a few highlights: eight Further Mathematicians were crowned as the UKMT Senior Team Mathematics Champions and now qualify for the National Finals in London in February; Harriet Lang recently celebrated her achievement of being awarded ESB Young Speaker of the Year having been selected as one of only five successful candidates; and students walked away from the Business and Professional Women's Public Speaking Competition with awards, confirming their outstanding abilities. The competition saw Moreton win the event and qualify for the Regional Finals.

Principal Jonathan Forster said: "Our GCSE and A Level results – and our success nationally – are testament to the dedication and



Moreton Hall has recently been confirmed as the number one non-selective school in the UK by The Sunday Times

commitment of our students and staff." It's not all classroom based however. Moreton have had landslide victories on the sports fields to finish a fantastic term of sport – the icing on the cake following an incredible season. Both the 1st and 2nd Lacrosse teams were crowned North School Lacrosse Champions; sixteen Moreton girls make up the Shropshire Lacrosse

Team – almost half the squad! The U16 Hockey team have been crowned county champions and the school cross country team have qualified for the ESAA regional finals.

The school's business focus also continues to flourish with the student-run school business – Moreton Enterprises – being championed the best for entrepreneurship by The Week. And

the annual Investec Business Lunch goes from strength to strength. Moreton are thrilled that William Hague, former First Secretary of State, Foreign Secretary and Leader of the House of Commons, has agreed to be guest speaker at this year's event in March.

The Good Schools Guide recently declared that 'every girl should spend at least a term at

Moreton Hall' and with the array of scholarships and bursaries available, Moreton Hall can provide that opportunity.

Moreton Hall's Prep School, Moreton First, for boys and girls aged 3-11 hold their Open Day on Saturday February 4, at 10am. To find out more, or to register your interest, please visit: www.moretonhall.org/MF-OpenDay



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McCormick XTX145, 2010, 7400hrs, Front Linkage	£POA
McCormick XTX145, 2009, 3980hrs, C/W Weights.....	£27,000
McCormick MC135 Power 6, C/W Loader	£16,500
McCormick MC130, 2009, 6200 hrs.....	£19,500
McCormick MTX 125, 4wd Tractor, 51 Reg	£14,000
Case 585L, 2wd.....	£2500
Case 995XL, 4wd	£7500
Case 4230, 4wd, C/W Chilton Loader	£POA
Landini Power Farm 85, 80hp, 2006.....	£POA
Lely Welger RP245 E-Link, 2014, 4000 Bales	£POA
Lely Welger RP235 Baler E-Link, 2007	£14,750
Welger D4000 Square Baler, 2003, 74,000 Bales.....	£6500
Welger RP200, 1997	£5000
Lely 240 Splendimo Mower Conditioner	£POA
Lely 280M Mower	£POA
Lely Attis PT160 Auto Bale Wrapper, 2014	£9500
Browns Square Bale Handler, 2012, Euro Hooks.....	£1200
21ft, 3.5 Grain Auger on Tripod	£1000
Kuhn MDS 735 C/W Extension.....	£400
Kuhn GF 7601MH 8 Rotor Tedder.....	£3000
KV 928 Pasture Topper	£900
Fraser 700 Rotor Spreader	£2000
Opico 6M Harrow Seeder.....	£5500
McConnel PA6065 XTC, 2014.....	£9500
McConnel PT9 Topper	£1400
Choice Of Silage/Shear Grabs/Bucket	£POA
10 Ton West Trailer Slide Over D/Bar	£POA
Dowdeswell DP7D2, 5 Furrow Reversible Plough	£POA
Krone 670, 6 Rota Tedder, 2003	£4500
Krone 243CV Mower Conditioner.....	£2750
Parmiter Post Driver	£2100
Marshall MS60 Spreader, Good Working Order.....	£POA
Bomford B54MP, 1997, Electric Control	£4000



Ruby Wax shares a joke at the sold-out event



Audience members enjoyed listening to the star talking about her work and her life



Ruby Wax chats to the Lion Quays Hotel audience



The star pauses for some refreshments during her appearance at the Booka Bookshop-organised event

What a gem!

COMEDIENNE and writer Ruby Wax brought her evening of mindfulness to Shropshire on Monday evening, a year after she had to cancel her visit.

Showing the more serious side of her nature, Ms Wax told a sold-out audience at The Lion Quays Hotel, near Oswestry, of her struggle with depression over the years.

Her book *A Mindfulness Guide For the Frazzled* is the result of years of studying and entering a silent retreat.

Report by Sue Austin

She attained a Master's degree at Oxford University in mindfulness-based cognitive therapy, a way of calming the mind and living in the moment.

The comedienne was due to launch the Oswestry Literary Festival in January 2016 but had to cancel at the last moment for personal reasons.

The sold-out event at the Lion Quays Hotel was in conjunction with Oswestry's Booka Bookshop.



Ruby Wax was interviewed by Cathy Rentzenbrick at the event at the Lion Quays Hotel. Photos: Alan Evans.

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Or apply on-line at:
www.kronospan-worldwide.com/careers

Dragon plan looks ready to take off

THE man behind plans to build a huge Welsh dragon on the Shropshire border says it is a huge relief to be able to look towards its future at last.

Simon Wingett this month won a five year extension to planning permission for a the landmark which he want to built just off the A5/A383 near Chirk.

The £2.5 million project would, he hopes, attract visitors to the region and bring a major boost to the economy. He hopes workmen can be on site later this year. He says his dreams of the sculpture to rival the Angel of the North hit the buffers when he first announced it when the world slid into recession.

"I got planning permission in the depths of the worst recession in living memory in 2011," he said.

"So the first three to four years of my planning permission was really rather difficult if you had anything that was slightly unusual in the construction world.

"Obviously building a landmark of this size and nature was."

He has scaled down the original plans, which had been costed at £9 million.

Mr Wingett is now appealing to the public to help make his dream a reality through a crowd funding campaign.

At the heart of a special visitor complex will be the huge bronze Welsh Dragon, based on the country's national emblem, raised on its hind legs on a 30ft tall slate tower, standing 110ft in the air.

It will be surrounded by 11 tall monolith stones, decorated with scenes from the legendary Welsh text, The Mabinogion.

There will also be an amphitheatre for performances, a 12 acre garden and a Welsh centre of excellence.

Officers' plea on road use

OFFICERS say they have received a number of complaints from residents in a village who live near roads which are designated as access only as people have been using them as short cuts.

Oswestry Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team is asking that road users in St Martins take notice of the road signs, following concerns raised by residents in Kimberly Lane and Clark's Lane.

A spokesman for the policing team said: "Access only means vehicles are only permitted to use these roads if the vehicle/occupants using them are living, visiting or engaged in business at an address on the road.

"These roads are not to be used as short cuts, these roads have been long established and were put into use at a time when motor vehicles and problems associated with them were not a major consideration.

"Kimberly Lane does not have a pavement for pedestrians, however over the years traffic has increased in size, volume and weight and the authorities have deemed it necessary to put access only restrictions in place to assist with traffic flow and protect the safety of those on foot. The SNT are requesting that road users observe these signs and do their part to keep our community safe from harm."

Street bollards idea is criticised

PLANS to spend £50,000 on a new bollards systems in a street blighted by empty shops have been labelled "bonkers".

Councillor Steve Charmley, Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council, has spoken out after highways officers for the authority proposed spending the sum on automated bollards in Cross Street, New Street, Bailey Head and Arthur Street in the town. Councillor Charmley and members of Oswestry Town Council are looking into the possibility of removing the bollards for six months and trialling Cross Street being opened up to traffic.

Shropshire Council pays Oswestry Town Council £12,000 a year to open and close the bollards manually, as the road is currently closed to vehicles between 10am and 4pm Monday to Saturday. Councillor Charmley said: "I understand Shropshire Council is looking to save money but this is a bonkers scheme. This won't help the situation with Cross Street whatsoever and it goes against what Oswestry Town Council and myself want to do."

Family's hedgehog rescue centre in jeopardy



Tim Robbins with one of the hedgehogs that he has cared for at his rescue centre

A HEDGEHOG rescue centre could close down because of a lack of support.

Tim Robbins and his family from Pant, near Oswestry, set up the centre in their garden in the spring and had hoped that people would donate food and bedding to help run the pro-

ject. But they have had little response from the public. Mr Robbins said that he does not know how much longer he can keep paying out for the food and any vets bills he has.

"We as a family give such a lot of our time to the hedgehogs. Any poorly or underweight

hedgehogs we have we feed them up until they are strong enough to survive in the wild," he said. "But we don't have an unlimited amount of money to spend on the project."

He said hedgehogs ate certain types of cat food – not fish or with gravy – and could get

through several tins a week. It is very sad that people done seem to realise that hedgehogs are on the list of Britain's 10 most endangered species. People who would like to support the venture can ring Mr Robbins for advice on (01691) 238522.



Maisie Robbins helps to look after the hedgehogs at the rescue centre

Railways are on the right track for greater success



Graham Hoyland hard at work on the Llangollen Railway



Llangollen Railway's Mince Pie Special service proved a big hit again with passengers from near and far

Report by Sue Austin

A HERITAGE steam railway has seen more visitors than ever before – thanks to an extension of its track and the regular use of a steam locomotive.

Oswestry-based Cambrian Heritage Railways bosses say they are delighted by the interest in its Santa trains over the recent festive season, with revenue up on 2015.

Visitors travelled from as far away as Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham to enjoy train rides at either Oswestry or Llynch stations.

Officials at the railway said the Santa specials mirrored the trend for increased passenger numbers over the year as a whole and said the steam locomotive, a 1949-built former National Coal Board machine, will be based at Oswestry for the foreseeable future.

Chairman Robert Williams commented: "Significantly expanding the running line in Oswestry in 2016, coupled with the presence of a steam engine, has attracted increased numbers of both passengers and volunteers, from the local area and further afield alike. In addition to the familiar weekend working parties, a gang now comes together every Thursday. New volunteers are always welcome to join us."

During 2016 the main line has been relaid from Oswestry Station southwards towards Gasworks Bridge, at the junction of the B4579 Shrewsbury Road and Victoria Road – an investment of £200,000.

Success was also enjoyed at Llangollen Railway over the festive season.

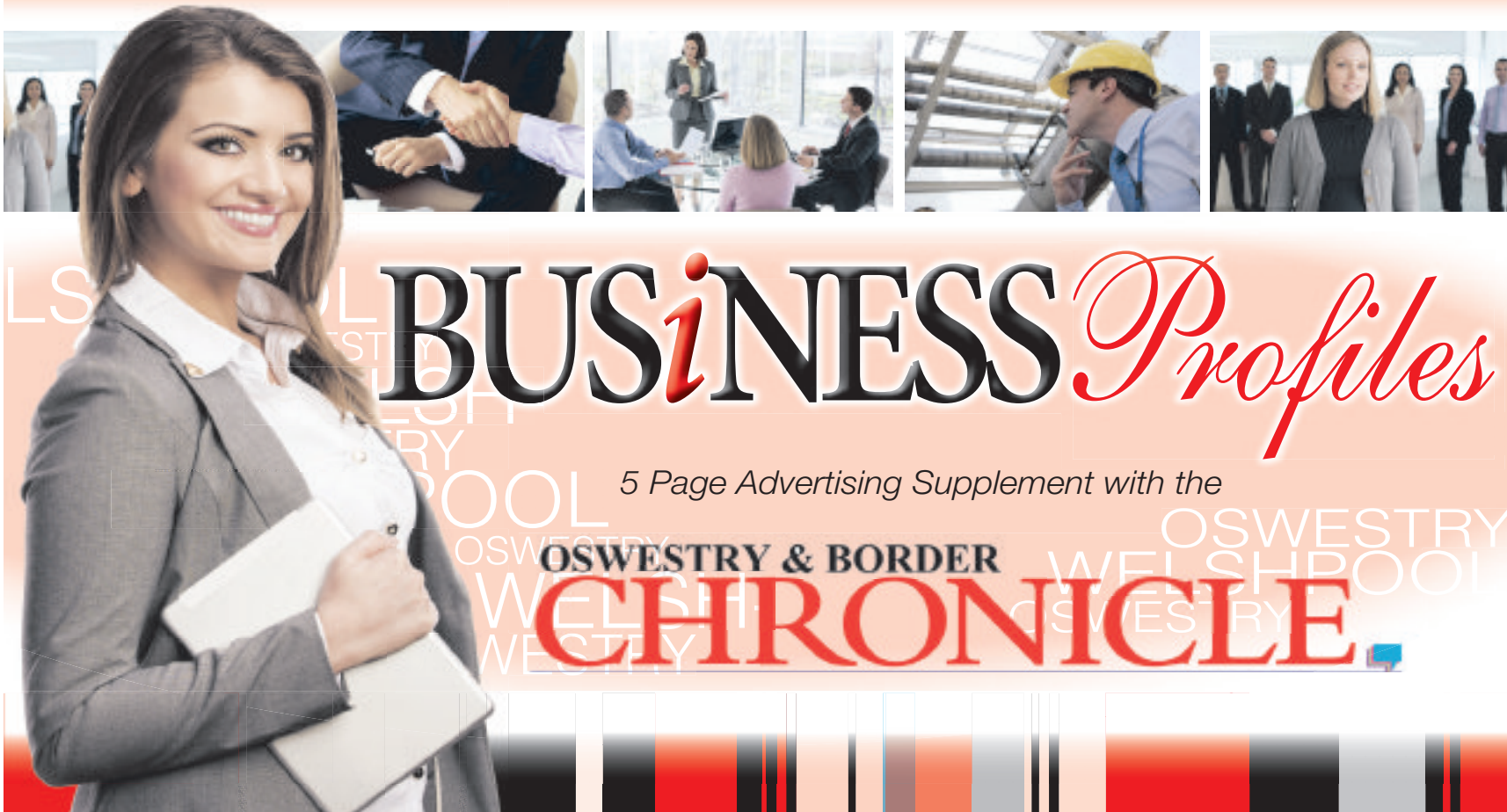
Its Santa special services proved a big hit as did its Boxing Day mince pie specials, officials said.



It's full steam ahead on the rails at Llangollen



Santa Specials were a big hit at Oswestry's Cambrian Heritage Railways



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MANAGING YOUR LIFETIME ALLOWANCE

By Stephen Spencer

Financial adviser, NFU Mutual Oswestry

If you're looking forward to a comfortable retirement, recent changes to the total amount which can be built up in pension savings without incurring tax penalties could affect your financial plans. Since being introduced in 2006, the Lifetime Allowance (LTA) has been cut from £1.8m in 2010 to £1.25m in 2015. In April 2016, it was cut further to £1m.

If you're a long-serving employee, a senior professional, or you work for yourself and have built up a large self-invested personal pension pot, you could unwittingly find yourself in the danger zone. You could face a tax charge of 55 per cent on any lump sum taken in excess of the LTA, or 25 per cent on top of your normal rate of Income

Tax if you take the pension as income.

If the value of your pension benefits is approaching, or above, the LTA you should take action. You may decide to take your pension early, scale back on high risk investments and switch to less volatile assets like bonds or cash, or even stop your contributions. If you are concerned about exceeding the £1m LTA you should seek advice on how you can apply to protect it. If you're concerned about your liability in the future, consider how much you put into your pension and how well your investments are performing.

Ask your pension provider how much you have built up in your scheme. If you're in more than one pension scheme (excluding your

state pension), you must add up how much you have in all schemes you belong to. Please remember: - The value of investments and any income from them can fall and you may get back less than you invested. - The tax treatment of pensions depends on your circumstances and may change in the future.



AT NFU MUTUAL OUR EXPERTS CAN POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



Need advice about securing your financial future? Pop in for a chat at the Oswestry branch, contact us at oswestry@nfumutual.co.uk or telephone 01691 749177.



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Firm has a large range of fireplaces, stoves and cookers

Saxon was established in 1980 and was based in central Chirk.

In 1987 Saxon relocated to Gledrid Industrial Park on the outskirts of Chirk and had a new 6,000 square foot showroom built in 2001.

January 2002 saw the new Saxon showroom opened by Owen Paterson the local MP.

The new showroom currently has on display over 120 wood burning, multi-fuel and gas stoves, 40 fireplaces and 20 range cookers.

We also have many of these installed into working flues for live demonstrations.

Here at Saxon we not only sell stoves, cookers, fires and fireplaces but can arrange for fitting of them to.

If you are buying a stove, cooker or fire from Saxon and live in the SY, LL and CH postcode areas we can send one of our qualified heating engineers out to do a site survey.

Our installers are fully HETAS (solid fuel), GAS SAFE (gas) and OFTEC (oil) registered for working with the various fuel types.

Site surveys are currently free of charge.

Quotes for installation can only be given once we have completed a site survey.

All work carried out by Saxon carries a one-year installation warranty as well as giving you full manufacturers' warranty subject to their terms and conditions.

Saxon Homecare is situated just south of Chirk, on the Gledrid Roundabout off the A483.



Saxon Homecare Ltd is based at Gledrid near Chirk and its showroom has an impressive display of stoves, fireplaces and cookers

We are five miles north of Oswestry and within a 30-minute drive from both Wrexham and Shrewsbury.
Contact Saxon Homecare Ltd,

Gledrid, Chirk, Wrexham, LL14 5DG, telephone (01691) 772153, fax: (01691) 776954, email: sales@www.saxonhomecare.co.uk



Sharps Roofing Supplies Ltd is an independent roofing merchants and supplies both trade and the general public

Customers' needs well covered

Sharps Roofing Supplies Ltd is a local, independent roofing merchants based in Shrewsbury.

The company was set up by Michael Sharp in 2007 to supply roofing materials both to the trade and general public.

Michael's passion, commitment and knowledge have helped all his customers over the years to fulfil their roofing needs.

This has proven to be a huge success and is now fast approaching its 11th year.

The company has gone from strength to strength allowing a wider variety of stocks and an expansion in their yard.

We at Sharps believe that due to Michael's knowledge and hands-on

approach to every project, along with his long standing staff, that the company has grown into an important and dependable asset to the trade and to fellow merchants who will often call upon Sharps to help them tackle roofing problems and unique ideas in roofing design.

Whether you're repairing a roof or constructing a new build, you can rely on Sharps Roofing Supplies for quality materials that will stand the test of time.

We stock everything, including new and reclaimed slate tiles, roof felt, lead, chimney pots and even Velux roof lights.

Servicing Shrewsbury, Donnington, Westbury, Church Stretton, Bridgnorth, Telford and Shawbury and being open

six days a week to both the public and trade you can always be sure that your roofing needs can be met wherever you are.

We also stock a wide range of building materials to builders and DIY enthusiasts alike.

From plywood and roofing timbers to sand and cement, we provide low cost, quality supplies in any quantity you require.

Talk to our helpful staff for advice on the quantities of building materials you would need all worked out from your plans.

We can also provide quotations for your future building projects so call in to talk to one of our friendly staff today on 01743 357972.

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Chamber steers course

As the UK marches head on to triggering Article 50 and our ultimate exit from the EU in whatever form it takes your Chamber recognises the significant part it must play in keeping you, our business community fully up to date, whilst ensuring we are well placed to influence government policy and strategy through extensive lobbying within corridors of power in Westminster.

Our accrediting body, the British Chambers of Commerce is engaging with ministers and government departments ensuring we get the latest information back here on the ground but equally important is the voice of Shropshire Business is heard and listened to.

Concerns

Based on the current priorities fed into us by our members we have identified clear areas of concern as follows.

- * Managing currency and market movements
- * Tax and financial implications arising from Brexit

- * Procurement implications
- * Data protection
- * Intellectual property protection
- * Supply chain implications

In addition we are currently actively lobbying in the following areas.

- * Trade Agreements. International Trade plays a significant part in the Shropshire economy, with goods and services from the county already being sent around the globe. We are committed to ensuring that competitive trade agreements are put in place, quickly, efficiently and in full consultation with business. This is not a job for civil servants alone.

- * Regulation. The unravelling of EU regulation will be a challenge that will tax the best minds. Government must provide clear leadership and precise communication to ensure business clearly understands what the



Richard Sheehan of Shropshire Chamber

future looks like to allow strategic planning and compliance.

- * Labour Market. Many of our Shropshire businesses benefit from the skills delivered by a migrant work force.

Uncertainty around what the future looks like, reduces our ability to attract the best talent

and threatens retention of existing skills, we fight for early and clear direction.

- * EU funding. Businesses have been familiar with EU funding projects in support of growth.

It is no accident that following our network lobbying, the Chancellor Philip Hammond announced a Treasury guarantee for the projects agreed this autumn.

This really does demonstrate outstanding policy work by the Chamber network.

Consult

Your Chamber will continue to consult with you on issues as they occur and promise to provide the very latest information and direction as we journey into the future together. Our website based Brexit Information Service will be available to businesses across Shropshire, full of the latest developments and the things you need to know. 2017 is going to be a bit of a rollercoaster ride with challenge and opportunity around every corner.

Now more than ever our business community needs to be connected, working together for the growth of our economy making sure that Shropshire looks after Shropshire and takes advantage of opportunities within domestic and overseas markets.

Difference

No business organisation within Shropshire does a quarter of what your Chamber does to make a real difference in our magnificent county. With over 150 business enhancing events, a comprehensive suite of both classroom and online training supporting skills development. An extensive cost saving benefits offer and powerful connected lobbying and policy work on behalf of members. Now is the time to be part of this expanding community, join us, and get connected.

Patrons



7video



Michael J. Lowe C.B.E., D.L., Honorary Patron of Shropshire Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise Ltd.

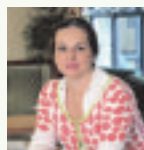
For Patronage enquiries please contact Teresa Rowe, Events Manager, Shropshire Chamber of Commerce. Call 01952 208218 or email t.rowe@shropshire-chamber.co.uk

What Our Members Say

Hundreds of Shropshire businesses cannot be wrong, by being part of the Chamber community that provides an extensive suite of at least 25 business enhancing and cost saving benefits and over 150 events per year why wouldn't you want it to help you?

MANDY THORN MBE, MARCHES CARE LTD

“ Marches Care have found our membership of Shropshire Chamber useful in offering access to business training opportunities and to information and guidance on general business matters not available through specialist trade associations. The networking opportunities are fantastic and we have been able to build up contacts across the county with whom we can now do business with.”



CHRISTOPHER GREENOUGH, COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR, SALOP DESIGN & ENGINEERING LTD

“ For Salop Design & Engineering Ltd, our Chamber membership is an integral part of our plans for growth. We are a manufacturer that is seeing growth within the sector and indeed throughout the region, and through our links with local businesses we are able to further support and maintain this growth. The breakfast events and the new Shropshire Manufacturing Partnership, show that the Chamber has the ability to listen to members, change and adapt where needed; whilst still keeping to their core beliefs of helping business connect with business ”



Shropshire Chamber recognises the various business sectors within its membership and has created a group dedicated to the manufacturing sector only.

Our next event is on Friday 10th February at Caterpillar, Lancaster Road, Shrewsbury SY1 3NX.

Register your interest to attend:
t.rowe@shropshire-chamber.co.uk

Here are just some of the latest member companies who have joined us during 2016. We welcome you in 2017.

Company Name	Contact	Town
Rent A Space	Leah Whitley	SHREWSBURY
The Lion Hotel Shrewsbury	Katie Riggs	SHREWSBURY
GeoFloor Ltd	Zoe Parry	TELFORD
GKN Autostructures Ltd	Duncan Varnes	TELFORD
Magiboards Ltd	Erwin Van Der Step	TELFORD
Lilleshall Hall Golf Club	Richard Beech	NR NEWPORT
Meres & Mosses Business Environment Network	Tom Hayek	SHREWSBURY
Bethpage	Peter Loose	SHREWSBURY
HITZone Shrewsbury	Christine Heath	TELFORD
HITZone Telford	Stuart Cain	TELFORD
Rodington Vineyard Ltd	Jai Chahal	TELFORD
MyWorkWear.co.uk	James Worthington	TELFORD
Battlefield Glass Ltd T/A Salop Glass	Phill Brown	SHREWSBURY
Asap Cargo Ltd	Chris Gilbert	TELFORD
Mr Flynn Design Agency	Wayne Flynn	SHREWSBURY
NFU Mutual - Welshpool	Rachel Gethin	WELSHPOOL
Hull & Co Legal Services Ltd	Lee Hull	TELFORD
Blueprint Travel Media	Nick Bevan	SHREWSBURY
Go Carz / Go Exec	Cindy Wilday	SHREWSBURY
Encore Personnel	Maddy O'donnell	TELFORD
Radfield Home Franchising Limited	Alex Green	SHREWSBURY
The Harry Johnson Trust	Sally Johnson	SHREWSBURY
T-T Pumps Ltd	Zoe Barnett	WOORE
Climbing Out	Kelda Wood	SHREWSBURY
Samuel Wood & Co	Russell Griffin	SHREWSBURY

Long established firm offers a wide variety of services

Graham Flooring & Cladding Ltd was established in 1951.

The firm is primarily commercial flooring contractors who supply and install safety flooring, linoleum, carpet tiles, resin floors and Whiterock/Bioclad wall cladding, curtains and blinds.

The firm offers a free consultation service for project designs. Graham Flooring & Cladding Ltd is based at The Derwas Centre, Welshpool where its has a large Kardean, Woodpecker and Vusta showroom.

The popular firm also has extensive ranges of domestic and commercial carpets, material and wallpaper books whilst also offering a ready made curtain service and made to measure blinds, including Venetian, Roller and Vertical.

Graham Flooring & Cladding Ltd is a Framework Contractor to Shropshire County Council and Powys County Council.

The firm is on the approved lists for Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundations and approved contractors to several large care home groups.

The firm holds an Accreditation from Chas as well as being a member of Construction line and all employees have been DBS checked.

If you feel we can be of any service to yourselves please do not hesitate to contact us.

Graham Flooring and Cladding Ltd also do comprehensive quotations for the supply and installation of Landlord Carpets.



Graham Flooring & Cladding Ltd was established in 1951 and is primarily commercial flooring contractors who supply and install safety flooring, linoleum, carpet tiles, resin floors and Whiterock/Bioclad wall cladding, curtains and blinds



Paul Huxley Construction is a firm that prides itself on excellent customer care and top standard work

Firm's excellent customer care

From a simple enquiry to the offices of Paul Huxley Construction for a livestock building, a seed was planted and a great relationship was formed.

Mr Huxley said: "We commenced fabricating Mr Wigley's new building in September 2016 and in November 2016 the building arrived at the Old Stack Yard ready for erecting.

"During this time, we learnt of the terrible loss of Eve, Mr Wigley's lovely wife to ovarian cancer and his hard work and dedication to establish a herd of British Blues in her memory.

"Mr Wigley has with a heavy heart thrown himself into fundraising and raising awareness, working alongside Ovarian Cancer Action.

"Mr Wigley's passion and enthusiasm for the charity, stirred emotions within our office and we felt moved into doing something to show our support.

"At Paul Huxley Construction, we were able to support Ovarian Cancer Action by sending awareness leaflets with all our quotes."

Mr Huxley also agreed to donate a percentage of each building sold for a period of two months raising a total of £3081.05." He said: "We will continue to support the charity Mr Wigley holds very close to his heart."

Paul Huxley Construction is a company that cares about quality and cost.

It is an independent and privately owned company boasting many

decades of experience in the steel framed building construction industry.

The firm is one of the UK's leading suppliers of steel framed buildings for agricultural, industrial and equestrian use and manufactures more than 150 buildings annually. Mr Huxley said: "We are proud to be a British manufacturer, based at our own premises in Oswestry. All of our materials are from UK suppliers and locally sourced where possible.

"Our team of staff offers high levels of experience, enthusiasm and attention to detail. We provide a full spectrum of planning-to-installation services for both kit and tailor-made steel framed buildings, whatever size, location, use and requirement."

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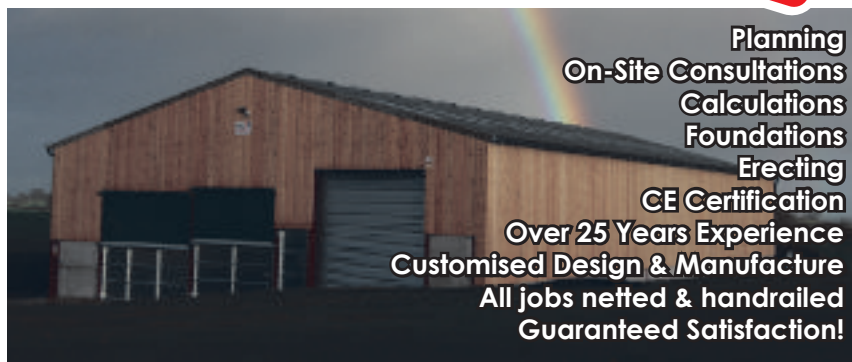
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Experts will give you inspiration on how to improve your home

Part of the JC Evans Group, Inspire Home Design is a specialised independent kitchen, bathroom and bedroom studio with the ability to meet any budgets and customer requirements.

Located on Maesbury Road Industrial Estate along with our tile warehouse Oswestry Tile Centre we pride ourselves in being able to offer a fantastic range of products from kitchens to bathrooms, bedrooms to worktops and appliances, with a huge array of tiles and flooring in stock.

Due to our fantastic customers, the company has grown over the last four years.

And we are now delighted to announce an extension to our showroom, with our new German Rotpunkt Kitchen display area which is complemented with AEG appliances and the super smooth Neff 'Slide and Hide' oven.

We also show a mixture of quartz and timber worktops that you can get up close and personal with.

The product oozes that German engineering aura and is very competitively priced so please feel free to pop in and take a look.

But let's not forget about the rest of the showroom!

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Also in January we have a 'Super Sale' with 25 per cent off all tiles in our Oswestry Tile Centre Showroom and a great selection of promotion and offers

on our kitchens and bathrooms. Please feel free to pop in to our showroom on Maesbury Road, Oswestry and see if we can give you some Inspiration here at Inspire Home Design. Alternatively you can call (01691) 657774. We are open from 7.30am to 5.30pm from Mondays to Fridays, 8am to 4pm on Saturdays and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays.



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Time for a new beginning

Commercial Feature

WITH the stresses and strains of the Christmas and New Year season now out of the way, it is time to get fit and fabulous for 2017

There is no better time than at the start of a new year to get healthy.

While a sensible diet is vital, a reasonable amount of exercise also plays an important part in making us all feel better.

We are lucky in the Oswestry and Welshpool area that when it comes to exercise we have plenty of options available. If an inside workout is what you fancy, then many of our hotels have gyms offering the latest exercise machines and excellent advice from trained staff.

And if you would prefer to get your exercise outside, then the Great Outdoors await, weather permitting of course. Whether it is jogging, cycling or walking, the Oswestry and Welshpool area offers a huge variety of options.

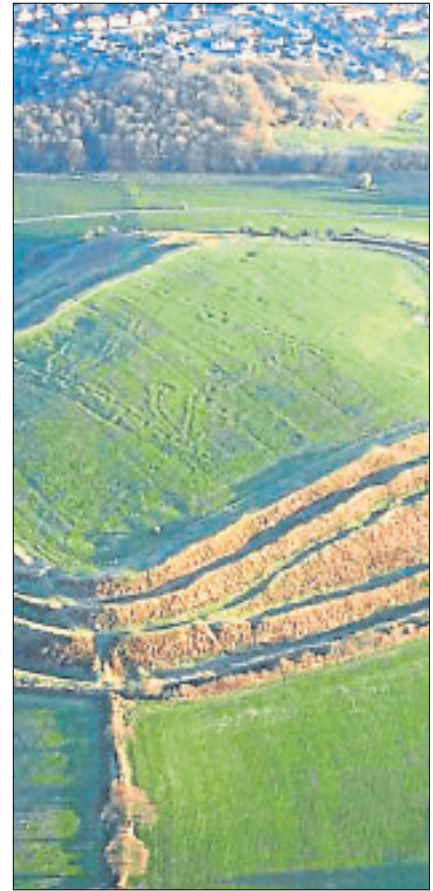
We are blessed to have the Montgomery Canal and the Llangollen Canal nearby. Much of the Llangollen Canal's towpath has been upgraded, offering cyclists an easy and relaxed route to enjoy their cycle. Nature lovers can enjoy a stroll along parts of the Montgomery Canal where they can soak up its natural wonders and also watch the canal boats slowly pass by. Being in a rural area, we are lucky to have many walks to choose from. It could be along the canals or through our many parks and public spaces.

In Oswestry walks up the Racecourse and to its Iron Age hillfort are popular and for the younger members of the family, a visit to Cae Glas Park is a great treat.

In Welshpool Powis Castle's park is a huge draw for visitors from near and far.



Cae Glas Park in Oswestry is a great place for a leisurely stroll at any time of the year



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Mobile phone shop set for relocation

A MOBILE phone shop will move directly across from two rival firms. O2, currently located on Smithfield Street in Oswestry, is due to move during the end of January to the former Johnson's Dry Cleaners premises on Bailey Street – opposite EE and Carphone Warehouse.

Despite this the phone company insist they are better placed on Bailey Street, having been at their current location for a decade, and the fact that across the country mobile phone providers tend to trade nearby the competition.

Martin Simcock, store manager, said: "Our lease where we are now finishes at the end of the month, and we did look at a couple of locations in the town but found the footfall to be a lot higher on Bailey Street, plus historically mobile phone companies do tend to trade nearby one another, that's just how it's always been. Each company can provide something different, so we feel this is a good move, we'll be directly in the town centre, so we are looking forward to it."

Raven Cottage to be focus of talk

THE Oswestry and District Civic Society will be holding its first talk of 2017 on Thursday next week.

It will be given by Carole Gough on Raven Cottage – a landmark to many on the crossroads at the end of Church Street.

Carole and her husband moved into Raven Cottage in 2007 and they have been fascinated by its history of 390 years having been constructed of wattle, daub and thatch in the summer of 1625.

She has done extensive research in local archives.

The talk will be in St Oswald's Parish Centre at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Admission is free to members otherwise £4 which is refundable if joining the society.

Town shoppers keen on free car parking deals

Report by Naomi Penrose

SHOPPERS in Oswestry say they believe an afternoon of free car parking once a week would encourage people to shop more in the town.

Oswestry Town Council has been asking for feedback from residents on the free parking it had offered in its car parks from 2pm onwards in the run-up to Christmas.

The offer started on December 12 and finished on Christmas Eve.

Kathy Atkinson, who lives in Bangor-on-Dee, near Wrexham, but is originally from Oswestry, said she would make a point of shopping in the town more often if free parking offers were on throughout the year.

She said: "I used to live in Nantwich and on a Wednesday afternoon from 3pm there was free parking in the town, so I would always make a point of doing all my shopping then, and I would if that was the case in Oswestry."

"Free afternoon parking, even if it was just one day a week, would encourage me to come to Oswestry more."

Majed Bentoumia, from Oswestry, said: "I think free car parking in the lead-up to Christmas is a good thing, paying £2 for parking can put people off, if they know they can park for free or cheaper elsewhere. "I do think more people would shop in Oswestry if there were more times free parking was offered."

However, Clive Durrant, who runs Oswestry Launderette, said although he agreed free parking helps boost footfall, he believed the town would end up too busy if it became regular.

He said: "Ahead of Christmas it's brilliant but I do think if it was in place all the time on certain days, the town would end up too busy which would put people off."

MBE honour for hospital patient



Rob Pedley MBE, centre, with staff from the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries

A SPINAL patient who receives regular treatment at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is celebrating after being awarded an MBE.

Constable Rob Pedley, 45, has been receiving treatment at the hospital in Gobowen since 2008 after he fell more than 70 metres on a snowboarding holiday. He spent 25 days in a Swiss intensive care unit after he broke his back in four places.

Constable Pedley was then flown back to the UK and recovered at the

Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries based inside the hospital.

Constable Pedley, based in Aston in Birmingham, got the news on the Queen's 90th birthday. Alongside his wife and two of their children, he visited Buckingham Palace to receive the MBE from Prince William on Armistice Day. He received the accolade for contributions to policing and the community in the West Midlands in the form of running the Precious Lives project, which launched in

2010. With the project, he has now reached more than 140,000 teenagers across the region to raise awareness of the negative outcomes of violent crime. He said: "It was quite a shock. I really didn't expect it. But the next day I was back in work. To me, I just get on with it and carry on. I expected Prince William to say something like 'so what have you done then' – but he asked about the scheme and seemed genuinely interested to hear about our work."

Art project highlights the plight of homeless

SHE'S already been crowned Wales's student nurse of the year – and now Steph Morris is turning her hand to supporting a pioneering project to help homeless people.

The 26-year-old, from Knockin, near Oswestry, won the national accolade last year. Now she's helping people who are homeless to express themselves through art.

The results are an insight into how those who find themselves living rough see the world. As well as studying at Bangor University, Steph has been involved in a variety of projects, including helping at a homeless shelter.

The nursing student became involved in a homeless project in Wrexham and set up art therapy classes at a homeless drop-in centre. Starting as a voluntary project it is now funded by the local health board after Steph made a Dragon's Den-style pitch for the project.

"One of its aims is to educate nurses and health professionals about the problems that homeless people face with health care," she said.

Among the artwork was a detailed drawing from a woman who was homeless following experiences of domestic abuse. "Her drawing is her hand with a web on the palm showing her feelings of being lost, confused and trapped. She uses drawings of eyes within the hand which are symbolic of her eyes being opened to a world of sadness since becoming homeless," Steph said. Steph said her research would be published this year and the project will continue with the hope of reducing inequalities for the homeless and encouraging art related projects to allow vulnerable groups to express themselves.

Steph is also raising funds for the homeless project. A charity ball held just before Christmas raised over £700.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

27
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, January 12, 2017

Tenders invited for bungalow which needs refurbishment

A two-bedroomed semi-detached bungalow, 1 Blackfriars, Oswestry is a property in need of complete refurbishment.

The bungalow is positioned in a popular residential area of the market town.

The property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co by formal tender at £92,500.

Tender forms can be obtained from the offices of the agents.

They need to be submitted by 5pm on Friday, January 27.

Features include its large plot, parking and a car port.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a covered porch, an entrance hall, a living room, a kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

The property is in reasonable walking distance of the local shopping facilities in Cabin Lane and Unicorn Road.

There is a regular bus service into the town's shopping centre. Oswestry is convenient for the A5 link roads to Shrewsbury, Telford, Wrexham, Chester and the railway station at Gobowen.

It is a traditional semi-detached 1960s bungalow.

In more detail the covered porch leads to the original front door. The entrance hall has a cloak cupboard and vinyl tiled flooring. With the same floor covering, the living room also has a tiled fireplace with a gas fire.

The kitchen comes with a basic sink unit and wall mounted gas boiler.

Bedroom one has a cylinder cupboard and vinyl tiled floor. Bedroom two has a vinyl tiled floor. The family bathroom features a white suite briefly comprising of a bath, low level WC and a pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the property has a good size plot with a driveway providing off-street parking leading to the car port and the remaining shell of a garage. There are front and side gardens including an enclosed rear lawn.

KEY FEATURES

Two bedrooms

Semi-detached

In need of refurbishment

Popular area

Large plot

OSWESTRY

£92,500



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CREW GREEN
£775,000

House in a tranquil hill location with around 11 acres

A charming house in a tranquil location set on Bausley Hill with around 11 acres of woodland and paddocks, Bausley Hill Farm at Crew Green has outstanding views across Shropshire.

It is for sale through Balfours at £775,000.

It has a dining hall, sitting room, study, kitchen, garden room, a ground floor bedroom with an en-suite shower room, four further bedrooms, a large bathroom, large shower room, a double garage, handling barn, gardens, mature and established woodland and paddocks.

Bausley Hill Farm is situated at the eastern end of the beautiful Briedden Hills, on the Shropshire/Powys border. The property reaches around the hill with an iron fort on the top and woodland extending down to beautiful natural meadowland below.



The surrounding area is well placed for superb off road riding and walking. Bausley Hill Farm is unique with a charming house nestled into the hilltop.

The farm dates back to the 17th century with an immense oak frame and exposed studwork, although the house was completely renovated in 1993 and recently extended to provide a ground floor bedroom with an en-suite bathroom.

The front door opens to a dining hall off which is the sitting room featuring an inglenook fireplace. Off the dining hall is a large study and a farmhouse style fitted kitchen with a Stanley range.

To the rear of the house is a garden room currently used as a dining area looking over the patio and garden. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, three of which have fitted wardrobes, a bathroom and shower room.

Outside, there is double garage with a loft above, garden, handling barn, 3.5 acres of paddocks and 5.5 acres of mature and established woodland.

There is a further 45 acres of wood and woodland grazing available separately.

Close to the village of Crew Green, Bausley Hill Farm is easily accessible to Welshpool, Oswestry and Shrewsbury and is within commuting distance of of Telford and West Midlands centres.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511 for more information.

Superb property includes two separate homes and lawned gardens

TREFLACH
£425,000 >>>

This superb detached residence in Oak Lane, Treflach is a high spec self build consisting of a spacious three double bed roomed home plus a detached triple garage with a self-contained apartment.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £425,000. The property sits in landscaped grounds with lawned gardens and extensive parking. Situated in a tucked away location in the pretty village of Treflach, all amenities are close by with Oswestry town a five minute drive away. The property offers great scope for two families with adaptable accommodation. The property has been built to a very high standard by the present owners and includes superb insulation, high specification fixtures and fittings along with Cat 5 wiring installed. All rooms are decorated immaculately with carpeting and flooring being in 'as new' condition.

A gravelled driveway leads to the property and is accessed via two farm style timber gates. The driveway provides parking for numerous vehicles leading to the triple garage. The rear garden includes a patio and lawn.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Super Georgian country house has lawns and tennis court

OSWESTRY
£1,250,000 <<<

A fully restored Georgian country house adjoining parkland and open countryside, Pen-y-Llan Hall on the edge of Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £1,250,000.

It has a vestibule, entrance hall, inner hall, drawing room, study, morning room, dining room, conservatory, cloakroom/WC, sitting room, playroom, kitchen, utility room, pantry and cellars.

It also has a master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms all en-suite, bedroom six, dressing room, two attic rooms, a bathroom, detached former annexe with planning permission for a workshop, stores, kitchen, cloakroom/WC, garaging and domestic buildings.

There are also lawned gardens and a tennis court and woodland of around 2.8 acres.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

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OUR USUAL FEES IN JANUARY 2017



Casualty
8.25pm
A scuffle at an illegal rave leads an over-enthusiastic sergeant causing serious head injuries to a 19-year-old man and later planting drugs in his belongings to corroborate his claim that he had been assaulted twice by his quarry. Jacob is dubious about the sergeant's story.



Only Connect
5pm
Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts as the Fire-Eaters take on the Korfballers in this third-round match, with a place in the quarter-finals of the quiz at stake. They must use patience, lateral thinking and sheer inspiration to make connections between groups of four things that may appear at first not to be linked.



Ninja Warrior UK
7pm
Competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama.



Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships
2pm
The eighth day of the BDO World Championships, staged at the Lakeside Country Club at Frimley Green, featuring the women's final, and the opening men's semi-final. Rob Walker presents, with commentary by John Rawling, Jim Proudfoot and Vassos Alexander.



NCIS
8pm
Gibbs throws himself back into his work following his near-death experience, updating his appearance and tackling a new risky case alongside DEA agent Luis Mitchell, who wants help bringing down a drugs cartel. Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette star.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen. Chefs Emma Bengtsson and Atul Kochhar take up residence in the studio kitchen as Michel Roux takes over hosting duties today, and is joined by Davina McCall.
11.30	The Best Dishes Ever. Ainsley Harriott celebrates dishes from the European mainland. (R)
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Leicester City v Chelsea and Manchester United v Liverpool.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Bargain Hunt. Antiques experts Anita Manning and Jonathan Pratt head to Anglesey to help two teams pick up bargains at a fair before selling them at auction. Presented by Tim Wonnacott. (R)
2.15	Wanted Under Under. Property series in which people get the chance to experience life in Australia or New Zealand before deciding whether they want to make the move permanently.
3.15	Escape to the Country. Jules Hudson assists a military family searching for a home in the Peak District on a budget of £700,000, and helps restore a vintage tram at the Crich Tram Museum in Derbyshire. (R)
4.00	Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League and EFL.
5.20	BBC News.
5.30	Midlands Today; Weather.
5.40	Celebrity Mastermind. With contestants Nathan Caton, DJ Dev, Adam Jones and Patrick Grant. Last in the series.
6.10	Pointless Celebrities. Jilly Goolden, Olly Smith, Sophie Grigson Michael Caines, Fay Maschler, Brian Turner, Cyrus Todiwala and Tony Singh compete in a "food and drink" edition of the unorthodox quiz.
7.00	Let It Shine. Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and Amber Riley continue to audition would-be pop princes for places in Let It Shine's five-strong headline act.
8.25	Casualty. A scuffle at an illegal rave leads an over-enthusiastic sergeant causing serious head injuries to a 19-year-old man. Elle's career is on the line as Connie goes on the warpath.
9.15	Taboo. James Delaney sets about enlisting allies to help him reclaim his legacy, but an unexpected arrival at the reading of his father's will threatens to disrupt his plans.
10.15	BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.30	Match of the Day. Gabby Logan presents action from the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Chelsea at the King Power Stadium and Swansea City v Arsenal at the Liberty Stadium.
12.00	FILM: The Ring (2002). Horror remake, with Naomi Watts and Martin Henderson.
1.45	Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.50	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.45	FILM: Higher and Higher (1943). A valet to a bankrupt millionaire plans to rebuild his boss's fortune by passing a scullery maid off as a high-society debutante. Musical comedy, with Jack Haley and Frank Sinatra.
8.15	FILM: The Magic Box (1951). Biopic of cinema pioneer William Friese-Greene, who strove to create a camera that would capture moving images, at great personal cost. Starring Robert Donat and Maria Schell.
10.00	Secret Britain. The presenters explore Kent, with Denise Lewis abseiling off the White Cliffs of Dover in search of a rare plant, and Ellie Harrison heading to Kent's furthest outpost. (R)
11.00	Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Cornwall, London and the West Midlands. (R)
12.00	Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang sample the cuisine of Chengdu, capital of Sichuan. (R)
1.00	FILM: Ice Station Zebra (1968). An American submarine crew races to reach a Soviet satellite that has crash-landed near a British research station in the Arctic. Adventure, with Rock Hudson and Patrick McGeehan.
3.20	Flog It! From Bangor, Gwynedd. (R)
4.00	Mastermind. The first semi-final. (R)
4.30	University Challenge. Two more teams battle it out for a place in the quarter-finals. (R)
5.00	Only Connect. The Fire-Eaters take on the Korfballers in this third-round match. (R)
5.30	The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. Unusual homes in forest regions around the world. (R)
6.30	Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. Exploring the forests, plains and cities of Central Thailand, and revealing how the nation's people find spiritual fulfilment in their relationships with animals. (R)
7.30	Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney. Andy Torbet sets out to cross the Pentland Firth as the ancient Orcadians would have done, Chris Packham goes in search of whales and Shini Somara uncovers the powers of the tides. (R)
8.30	Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring puts the defence of the realm before personal pride, resulting in problems. Classic comedy with the Home Guard, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
9.00	Imagine: Listen to Me Marlon. Documentary providing an intimate portrait of Marlon Brando, making use of the actor's own archival audio tapes and home-movie footage alongside excerpts from his film career.
10.40	FILM: On the Waterfront (1954). A former boxer reduced to working for a gangster has his conscience pricked when he sees his boss's thugs kill a man. Drama, starring Marlon Brando, Lee J Cobb and Eva Marie Saint.
12.25	FILM: Lay the Favorite (2012). Comedy, starring Rebecca Hall.
1.50	This is BBC2. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids
6.10	CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids
6.25	Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.45	Sooty
6.55	Signed Stories: Share a Story
7.00	Super 4
7.15	Oddbods
7.20	Oddbods
7.30	Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. The wanderer takes has trouble parking at the cinema. (R)
7.55	Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
8.10	Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. Feisty frolics. (R)
8.30	Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. Children are taught to survive in the wild.
9.05	Scrambled!: Adventure Time. Fun for children. (R)
9.25	ITV News.
9.30	Rebound. Quiz, hosted by Sean Fletcher. (R)
10.25	Guess This House. Property game show, hosted by Saira Khan. (R)
11.25	Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
12.30	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.40	River Monsters. Jeremy Wade tracks down a creature that maimed a young man. (R)
1.10	Bargain Shop Wars. Bargain retailer Pep&Co launches its first sale. (R)
1.40	FILM: The Mummy Returns (2001). Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Brendan Fraser.
4.05	Dance Dance Dance. Celebrity dance contest. (R)
5.35	ITV News Central; Weather.
5.45	ITV News and Weather.
6.00	The Brits Are Coming. A special live show announcing which artists are in the running to receive gongs at this year's Brit Award ceremony. Includes performances by Olly Murs, Craig David and more.
7.00	Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.
8.00	The Voice UK. Jennifer Hudson, Gavin Rossdale, Will.i.am and Tom Jones appraise the talents of more would-be pop icons in the blind auditions, judging by contestants' vocal abilities alone.
9.30	Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon challenges Eamonn Holmes, Emma Bunton and Jonathan Ross to guess the identities of the celebrities whose homes he peruses.
10.30	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.45	FILM: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991). A cyborg is sent back in time to protect the future saviour of the human race from a shape-changing assassin. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton.
1.15	Jackpot247. Interactive gaming.
3.00	Who's Doing the Dishes? (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

Channel 4	
6.15	The King of Queens. Carrie returns to college. (R)
6.40	The King of Queens. Doug makes a rash purchase. (R)
7.05	Everybody Loves Raymond. The children feel neglected. (R)
7.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. A prized possession is revealed as a forgery. (R)
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra comes down with flu. (R)
8.30	Frasier. Niles receives divorce papers from Maris. (R)
9.00	Frasier. Niles asks Frasier whether he should stay with Maris. (R)
9.30	The Big Bang Theory. The gang recreates a prom night. (R)
10.00	The Big Bang Theory. Leonard announces he has to have surgery. (R)
10.25	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon bids an emotional goodbye to Fun with Flags. (R)
10.55	The Simpsons. Bart is befriended by mobsters. (R)
11.25	The Simpsons. Homer prevents a nuclear meltdown. (R)
11.55	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. An Italian family restaurant in Long Beach, California. (R)
12.55	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Lindsay Lohan brings a little Hollywood glamour to the cafe. (R)
2.00	Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. The eighth day of the BDO World Championships.
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. Penelope Keith starts her journey in the Cotswolds, and explores the celebrated village of Bibury, as well as Kilmescott, the home of William Morris. (R)
8.00	Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on more watery adventures, beginning 14 miles west of Venice on the Brenta. (R)
9.00	FILM: Oblivion (2013). A repairman salvaging resources from a devastated future Earth discovers a secret that threatens the human race. Sci-fi adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman.
11.30	FILM: Immortals (2011). A man is chosen by the Greek gods to prevent a power-mad king from conquering the human and immortal worlds. Mythological adventure, with Henry Cavill and Mickey Rourke.
1.35	Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Ste wants to see Leah and Lucas for his birthday, and elsewhere Prince and Hunter are out for revenge after Amy bans them from The Bean.
3.35	Win It Cook It. Chicken and meatball dishes go head to head. (R)
4.05	Hoarder SOS. A Birmingham couple sell their huge toy and film memorabilia collections, while in Sutton Coldfield a musician wants to cash in and clear out his music gear. (R)
5.00	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer visit Aberdeen to help two sets of house hunters who have relocated to the city for work and need to find family homes quickly. (R)
5.55	The King of Queens. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey
6.05	Milkshake! Box
6.10	Peppa Pig
6.15	Bob the Builder
6.25	Zack and the Alien
6.35	Zack and Quack
6.45	Seaside Antics
6.50	Fireman Sam
7.00	Pip Ahoy!
7.15	Little Princess
7.30	Paw Patrol
7.50	Blaze and the Monster Machines
8.15	Noddy in Toyland
8.30	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
8.50	Shimmer and Shine
9.10	The Fairly OddParents. (R)
9.45	Big Bash Cricket Live. Perth Scorchers v Melbourne Stars.
1.30	The Hotel Inspector. A struggling hotel in Chertsey, Surrey. (R)
2.30	Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud. Internet clips featuring the antics of budgies and other birds. (R)
3.30	Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Another selection of the most popular videos featuring dogs. (R)
4.25	Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. Hilarious and outrageous dog-themed videos taken from the internet. (R)
5.25	Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud. Internet videos featuring kittens. (R)
6.25	NCIS: Los Angeles. Sam goes undercover as a bomb specialist when he investigates the death of a demolition expert, but faces a race against time to find explosives located across LA.
7.10	NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a reporter is murdered as she prepares to break a story about a mysterious Libyan freedom fighter named El-Libi.
8.00	NCIS. Gibbs calls on the team to assist DEA Agent Luis Mitchell to bring down a drug dealer, but DiNozzo discovers there is more to Gibbs' desire to help him succeed.
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Bristol City v Cardiff City, Fulham v Barnsley, and Rotherham United v Norwich City.
10.00	Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Walsall v Sheffield United and Plymouth Argyle v Stevenage.
10.30	Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.
11.30	Lip Sync Battle UK: Alexander Armstrong vs Jimmy Carr. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present as comedy actor and presenter Alexander Armstrong and comedy compere Jimmy Carr go head to head lip-synching to hit songs. (R)
12.00	SuperCasino.
3.05	Celebrity Big Brother. (R)
4.00	Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R)
4.50	Divine Designs. (R)
5.15	Divine Designs. (R)
5.40	Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50	Roary the Racing Car. (R)



Countryfile
6.30pm
The programme comes from Carmarthenshire, where Matt Baker explores the history of the region's sand dunes and Helen Skelton visits the National Botanic Garden of Wales, where she discovers how bees are being prepared for winter and reports on a plan to map the DNA of all the UK's flowers.



Match of the Day 2
10pm
Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Liverpool at Old Trafford and Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park. The reverse fixture between United and Liverpool produced a 0-0 draw, while City were looking to maintain their title hopes.



Dance Dance Dance
6.30pm
Alesha Dixon and Will Best host the second stage of the celebrity dance contest, in which the contestants must impress judges Ashley Banjo, Tina Landon and Timor Steffens by recreating famous music videos – as well as a classic scene from the Blues Brothers.



Walking the Americas
8pm
The second leg of Levison Wood's four-month trek across Central America involves walking for 400 miles and travelling through three different countries. He visits a unique Caribbean town that is populated by the descendants of shipwrecked African slaves.



Celebrity Botched Up Bodies
10.05pm
Alex Reid undergoes surgery on his repeatedly broken nose to make it easier for him to breath, while Georgie Shore's Marnie Simpson discusses how her breast enhancement went badly wrong. Plus, reports on Jean-Claude Van Damme's changing appearance following cosmetic surgery.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
7.30	Match of the Day. Gabby Logan presents action from the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Chelsea at the King Power Stadium and Swansea City v Arsenal at the Liberty Stadium. (R)
9.00	The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00	The Big Questions. Nicky Campbell presents a discussion of whether digital media is good for democracy from Brunel University, London.
11.00	Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
12.15	Bargain Hunt. Two teams seek out bargains in Berkshire. (R)
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Lancashire, Kent and Derbyshire. (R)
2.00	Wanted Down Under Revisited. Nicki Chapman catches up with the Turner family. (R)
2.45	Escape to the Country. (R)
3.30	Spy in the Wild. Camouflaged spy cameras go "undercover" in the animal world. Spy Penguin records the mating season, while Spy Tortoise and Spy Bushbaby keep watch on chimpanzees. (R)
4.30	Songs of Praise. A Scottish island with a connection to Donald Trump.
5.05	Call the Midwife: The Casebook. Stephen McGann presents a look at the true stories behind the drama series.
6.05	BBC News.
6.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.30	Countryfile. Matt Baker and Helen Skelton explore Carmarthenshire, visiting the National Botanic Garden of Wales and exploring the history of the region's sand dunes. Including weather for the week ahead.
7.30	Antiques Roadshow Holocaust Memorial. Fiona Bruce and the team examine items connected to the Holocaust and listen to the personal stories of survivors. Plus, a look at the work of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.
8.30	Still Open All Hours. Granville has a clever plan to lure customers to buy outdated Christmas puddings, and Madge is convinced that her house is haunted and refuses to sleep in her own bedroom.
9.00	Sherlock. Sherlock and John face their greatest challenge, as long-buried secrets catch up with them and a threat from the past seems to have returned from the dead. Last in the series.
10.30	BBC News.
10.50	Midlands Today; Weather.
11.00	The Graham Norton Show. Ben Affleck and Sienna Miller discuss their crime film <i>Live by Night</i> , while Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone chat about new movie <i>La La Land</i> . (R)
11.45	The Celebrity Apprentice USA. The contestants are challenged to make a 3D interactive photo experience for Universal's marketing campaign.
1.10	Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.15	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.15	A to Z of TV Gardening. Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter V. (R)
7.00	Big Dreams Small Spaces. Monty Don helps gardeners in Leyton and Bath. (R)
8.00	An Island Parish: Anguilla. Bishop Brooks oversees renovations at St. Mary's Anglican church. (R)
8.30	The Edible Garden. Growing salad ingredients. (R)
9.00	Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani report from Shropshire. (R)
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. John Torode presents highlights from throughout the series.
11.30	Talking Snooker. Alistair McGowan takes an affectionate look at three of snooker's biggest stars.
12.15	MOTD2 Extra. Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
1.00	Live Snooker: The Masters. Ronnie O'Sullivan v Liang Wenbo.
5.15	Yellowstone: The Toughest Spring. Cameras follow as winter turns to spring in Yellowstone during 2016. (R)
6.15	Ski Sunday. Highlights of the men's World Cup downhill on the Lauberhorn in Wengen, Switzerland. Plus, a feature on Swiss freerider Jeremie Heitz.
7.00	City in the Sky. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry present a documentary exploring aviation, beginning with a look at the challenges of getting passenger planes into the air. (R)
8.00	Dragons' Den. An inventor shows off a new kind of garden shed and Touker Suleyman agrees to road test a waxing product as the panel cast judgment over more money-making schemes.
9.00	Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. The mountains and forests of Northern Thailand, where unusual partnerships develop between animals and people. Last in the series.
10.00	Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Liverpool at Old Trafford and Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park.
10.50	Qi XL. Guests Matt Lucas, Jerry Springer and Ciarad Lloyd join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "noodles" in this extended episode.
11.35	Snooker: The Masters. Ding Junhui v Kyren Wilson. Hazel Irvine presents action from the last-16 match on day one at Alexandra Palace in London, played over the best of 11 frames.
12.25	Snooker: The Masters – Extra. Ronnie O'Sullivan v Liang Wenbo. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights of the opening last-16 match, played over the best of 11 frames at Alexandra Palace in London.
2.25	Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Solihull, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
3.25	Sign Zone: Holby City. Oliver must compete for both funding and Jac's support when Matteo pitches a tempting rival project, and Dominic tries to keep his relationship with Isaac a secret from his parents. (R)
4.25	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids
6.10	Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids
6.25	Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.35
6.45	Sooty 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Super 4 7.15 Oddbods 7.20 Oddbods
7.30	Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. The hapless buffoon goes hunting for treasure. (R)
7.55	Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. Peter thinks he can please everyone most of the time. (R)
8.10	Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R)
8.30	Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. Double bill.
9.05	Scrambled!: Adventure Time. Fun for children. (R)
9.25	ITV News.
9.30	Countrywise. Ben Fogle is at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall for a spot of extreme gardening. (R)
10.00	Peston on Sunday. New series. Political magazine.
11.00	Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. Gino D'Acampo explores lesser-known parts of the country, beginning in Abruzzo. (R)
11.30	Chopping Block. Four couples face three Spanish-related cooking challenges. (R)
12.30	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.35	Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
1.35	Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
2.35	Ninja Warrior UK. Obstacle-course challenge, with Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. (R)
3.35	The Voice UK. The blind audition phase continues. (R)
5.05	ITV News Central; Weather.
5.15	ITV News and Weather.
5.30	The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Adrian Chiles, Gemma Merna, Rosie Marcel and Jon Snow. (R)
6.30	Dance Dance Dance. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host the second stage of the celebrity dance contest, in which the contestants must recreate famous music videos by Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears.
8.00	Endeavour. The detective investigates the death of a bricklayer working on a controversial singer's house, while further deaths seem to have a connection to a censorship campaign.
10.00	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.15	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.15	The Brits Are Coming. A special live show announcing which artists are in the running to receive gongs at this year's Brit Award ceremony. Includes performances by Olly Murs, Craig David and more. (R)
12.15	Jackpot247. Interactive gaming.
3.00	Chopping Block. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.
5.05	The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

Channel 4	
6.20	The King of Queens. The strike puts a strain on everyone. (R)
6.45	The King of Queens. Doug and Carrie reminisce about their first Thanksgiving together. (R)
7.10	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray grows envious of Robert's good looks. (R)
7.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra ditches her old car. (R)
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray discovers he has been duped. (R)
8.30	Frasier. Linda Hamilton guest stars. (R)
9.00	Frasier. A supermodel dates Frasier. (R)
9.30	Sunday Brunch. With guests Keith Lemon, Lorraine Kelly and Scarlett Moffatt.
12.30	The Simpsons. Homer meets Mel Gibson. (R)
12.55	The Simpsons. Bart is placed on medication. (R)
1.25	The Simpsons. Homer becomes a food critic. (R)
1.55	FILM: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009). Comedy sequel, starring Rupert Everett.
3.55	Channel 4 News.
4.15	Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. The men's final of the BDO World Championships.
8.00	Walking the Americas. Levison Wood visits a unique Caribbean town that is populated by the descendants of shipwrecked African slaves before making his way through one of the world's most violent cities.
9.00	FILM: Bad Neighbours (2014). Premiere. A suburban couple enter into a vicious game of one-upmanship with the raucous student household living next door. Comedy, starring Seth Rogen, Zac Efron and Rose Byrne.
10.50	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts, as Sean Lock and Stephen Mangan team up against Noel Fielding and Fay Ripley. The Brett Domino Trio assist Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner. (R)
11.55	FILM: Hanna (2011). A teenage girl trained by her father to be an assassin travels the world on a secret mission, pursued by the CIA. Action thriller, with Saoirse Ronan and Cate Blanchett.
1.55	How to Lose Weight Well. Dr Xand van Tulken and dietician Hala El-Shafie help a duo slim down for a birthday bash in seven days, and water-only fasts are investigated. (R)
2.50	The Autistic Gardener. Alan Gardner and his team of fellow autistic horticultural enthusiasts visit Ealing in west London, where they attempt to make a small garden look bigger. (R)
3.45	Jamie's Comfort Food. Jamie Oliver prepares curried fish pie.
3.55	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help key-workers with modest budgets buy their first homes in south London, including a pair of civil partners with high expectations. (R)
4.55	Location, Location, Location. Revisiting two couples searching for homes in Torbay. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey 6.05 Milkshake! Bop Box 6.10 Peppa Pig 6.15 Angelina Ballerina 6.25 Bob the Builder 6.40 Wanda and the Alien 6.50 Zack and Quack 7.00 Seaside Antics 7.05 Fireman Sam 7.15 Pip Ahoy! 7.30 Little Princess 7.40 Paw Patrol 7.55 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.25 Noddy in Toyland 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.55 Shimmer and Shine 9.20 Peppa Pig 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.55	The Fairly OddParents. Double bill. Timmy has to look after his dad's prized sports car. (R)
10.30	Football on 5: The Championship. Action from the latest fixtures. (R)
11.25	Football on 5: Goal Rush. The latest matches from Leagues One and Two. (R)
12.00	Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong. (R)
12.25	FILM: Message in a Bottle (1999). Romantic drama, with Kevin Costner and Robin Wright.
2.50	FILM: Six Days Seven Nights (1998). Romantic adventure, starring Harrison Ford and Anne Heche.
4.45	FILM: You've Got Mail (1998). Romantic comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.
7.00	Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world. (R)
8.00	Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud. Iain Lee narrates a collection of internet videos featuring weddings.
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.
10.05	Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. Alex Reid undergoes surgery on his nose to help his breathing, while Georgie Shore's Marnie Simpson discusses how her breast enhancement went badly wrong.
11.05	The Roast of Donald Trump. An event from 2011 in which the business mogul faces a barrage of insults from Seth MacFarlane, Gilbert Gottfried, Whitney Cummings, Snoop Dogg, Larry King and Marlee Matlin. (R)
12.35	Impractical Jokers UK. The pranksters engage in one last round of stunts. Last in the series.
1.00	SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10	FILM: Under the Tuscan Sun (2003). Romantic comedy drama, with Diane Lane and Raoul Bova.
4.50	Divine Designs. Two notable Victorian architects. (R)
5.15	Divine Designs. Gothic revival churches. (R)
5.40	Angels of Jarm. A song about burgers. (R)

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Looks, performance and reasonable running costs from a car which starts from under £20,000

This four-legged spider brings smiles all the way

By John Griffiths

FIAT 124 SPIDER, FROM UNDER £20,000

In recent years Fiat has spearheaded its revival by going back for the future: drawing on its iconic '500' tag to help popularise not one but a whole range of thoroughly modern motors from a cute city car to an SUV.

So its latest offering is an contemporary take on its two-seater sports car from the 1980s in the form of the 124 Spider, albeit a very different proposition.

Most people like an honest, relatively simple drop-top and with its Italian styling the new Spider is undoubtedly a very pretty example. But underneath is Japanese engine and chassis technology from the Mazda MX-5, the car which kept the flame of the affordable sports car alive virtually single-handed and was rewarded by becoming the single best-seller in the field by some margin.

Add Fiat's new turbocharged 1.4 litre engine and it's a winning combination – the 140bhp test car was capable of doing the 0 to 62mph dash in 7.5 seconds and managed an overall 43mpg.

Looks, performance and reasonable running costs from a car which starts from under £20,000. You can hardly ask for more. If you want, or can afford, to pay more you can go for the 170bhp Abarth version which is a more hardcore proposition, with uprated suspension too.

Latest

The Spider is well equipped with the latest technological trappings such as a central touchscreen control for navigation, audio, connectivity and other functions, with remote controls on the adjustable steering wheel.

It also has the classic luxury with large, well shaped leather sports seats and – essential to such a car – an easy to remove fabric roof. It's manual operation: you can't sit there with your finger on a button and impress those behind you in the traffic jam but you can release the locking mechanism and let it drop back into its allotted storage area an awful lot quicker. About two seconds, in fact, rather than 20 or 30 and it also saves weight as well as money and room, so you still have a boot worthy of the name: about 140 litres which is enough, for example, of a couple of typical 'carry-on' wheeled cases at least.

The 1.4 litre engine is impressive. Not only in outright power terms, but also its impressive 240Nm of torque thanks to the turbo: all that's available from 2,250rpm which, along with the car's light weight, contributes to that brisk initial acceleration.

It's no less impressive for 'in-gear' performance either. Prepare to be surprised the first time you change down for a quick overtake. The exhaust



Stylish rear-wheel drop-top that is so pretty and also a great drive

is tuned to produce a crescendo of snarling fury under acceleration – it would hardly be a sports car without that – but while cruising in top it abates to an audible but not intrusive growl which is less wearing on long trips.

The Spider scores highly here: its engine and excellent dynamics make it a lot of fun when required, but it's altogether more civilised for a journey. Those leather seats are excellent too as I can attest after spending over four hours behind the wheel (most of which was spent in a mammoth motorway jam) and emerging without a twinge in these old bones.

For those who haven't experienced rear wheel drive, it adds a real sense of involvement to the driving experience, while modern suspension electronics in the form of traction and stability controls eliminate the worst excesses of the genre seen in older examples of the genre (ie a loose rear end).

The suspension is firmish but still almost surprisingly compliant, softening the bumps on typical British B roads without rattling your teeth or wandering off track.

The steering is quick and positive, helping the car to turn in quickly and maintain its line through the corners. The brakes (discs all round) and powerful without being so sharp they're likely to stand the car on its nose. The gearbox – modified from the Mazda original to allow for the turbo's extra torque – is a slick six-speed example, with short throw and a positive feel which allows changes as rapidly as the driver can co-ordinate hand/foot movements.

Electric front windows, front and side airbags, climate control and cruise control are standard, with a

reversing camera and parking radar on all but base models. That's a useful option, as like most two-seater rear three-quarters visibility is limited with the roof up. Direct rear vision isn't an issue as the rear window is glass and heated (older readers will remember the days of rapidly yellowing perspex in this role).

As for running costs, the Spider's official fuel average is 44.1mpg which equates to a CO2 rating of 148g/km for tax purposes. The standard car's insurance rating is 25/26E with the Abarth version rated three groups higher.

When Fiat signed its deal with Mazda to use the MX-5's underpinnings it was undoubtedly a shrewd move. It was, after all, taking some of the best bits from the acclaimed best-selling two-seater and saving on research and development costs which helps to keep the 124 Spider affordable. But the end result is no Japanese clone but actually a significantly different car with its entirely new (and rather pretty) body, the different character of the 1.4 turbo engine and some gearbox and suspension tweaks.

It is clearly a thoroughly modern and highly competent car with technologies our fathers and grandfathers couldn't have dreamed of.

But, no matter how hard you try, you can't avoid taking a look in the rear view mirror to a golden age when the front-engined, rear wheel drive drop top (many of them British!) ruled the roads, their pictures plastered across the bedroom walls of a generation of schoolboys.

The 124 Spider in many ways builds a bridge between the two worlds, creating many a smile along the way.

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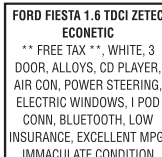
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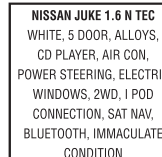
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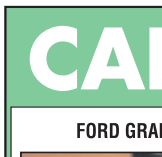
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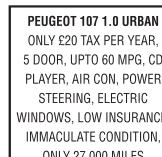
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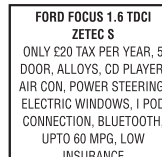
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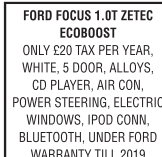
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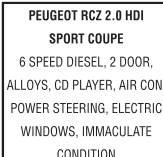
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Sleep conditions are very dangerous

Dangers of sleep conditions on road

Prominent organisations say there should be fast-track diagnosis and treatment for professional drivers with sleep conditions.

Driving with an undiagnosed sleep condition can be even more dangerous than drink-driving, according to two of the country's largest automotive organisations.

The RAC and Road Haulage Association (RHA), which represents freight companies and truck drivers, claim that conditions such as obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome (OSAS), can be a greater impairment than being over the drink-drive limit. OSAS can make sufferers feel drowsier in the daytime and increases the likelihood of falling asleep at the wheel, thus endangering both the sufferer and other road users.

Professor John Stradling, of the OSA Partnership Group, said: "It is worth reminding anyone who considers driving with untreated OSAS that the impairment to driving can be considerably greater than exceeding the legal alcohol limit. There is a high risk of drivers with untreated OSAS losing concentration and falling asleep behind the wheel."

The RAC and RHA are calling for a fast-track diagnostic and treatment system for those who drive professionally, targeting a maximum of four weeks between diagnosis and treatment. According to the RAC, some drivers are waiting months for treatment.

RAC roads policy spokesperson Nicholas Lyes said: "Commercial drivers are vital to the health and growth of the UK's economy, so it's only right that those behind the wheel are safe and aware of any health threats that might impair their driving ability. Something like OSAS can affect anybody, regardless of ability and experience, which is why we feel it is vital that they have access to fast-track diagnosis and treatment that ensures job security and they are back on the road within a few weeks."



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Pitfalls of car modification that may not be worth risk

By Jack Evans

Modifications may help change the look and feel of your car, but they can cause some headaches too.

If you own a car, there's a chance you've considered making some changes to it. A new set of wheels perhaps, or even tinted windows. Making cosmetic and mechanical changes to your pride and joy can be tempting, but the reality is that should these be done improperly they can cause more headaches than smiles.

We're going to look at some popular car modifications that can negatively affect your driving experience...

- It can void your insurance

This is a big one. Even something as mundane as a small rear spoiler can cause your insurance to be invalid – if you don't notify the insurer of the change. Larger alloy wheels, darker windows and even a small bodykit could put you in a whole heap of trouble. Notifying your insurer will mean they're aware of the change, but be prepared for your premium to increase. These changes can make the car more attractive to would-be thieves, making it more of a risk to cover.

- Changes can affect resale values

Yes, although the fact you're modifying your car probably means you're not planning on selling it right now, you may want to in the future. Even if the changes you're planning on making look good to you, there's a chance a new buyer won't take to them as fondly when you come to sell the car. Some modifications, such as window tinting, can easily be reversed should you need to put the car up for sale. However, larger changes such as lowering the car or respraying it are harder to undo and really could be the difference between a sale and a prospective buyer walking away. Of course, if you've got receipts and proof that the work has been done by a reputable mechanic, then most people won't have an issue with small modifications. Just ensure they're aware that they've taken place before they drive away.

- Modifications may ruin the way your car drives

This applies more to mechanical modifications. Unless done properly, mechanical changes to your car can quickly turn it into a nightmare of a car to drive. Lowering in particular can ruin a car's ride, and make it nearly unbearable if not fitted correctly. However, this isn't to say mechanical modifications can't improve the way a car drives, they just need to be done right first time.

- They can affect the longevity of the car

Manufacturers spend millions of pounds on each new car, ensuring each part of it works – and remains working – at the very highest standard. Though consumables, such as tyres and brakes, need to be replaced, larger parts don't need changing as often. When replaced with non-genuine parts, it can often cause stress in other areas of the car. As a result, components wear out faster than they might have otherwise done so. If you're trying to maintain your car's reliability, then large mechanical changes may not be your best option.

Car modifications can certainly add a certain extra to the look of your car. They also add a bit more personality to a vehicle. However, you need to make sure you prepare before any work is undertaken. More importantly, you need to inform your insurance provider. Though a car may look good, it needs to be – first and foremost – legal.



Lowering your car can ruin the ride and make it nearly unbearable unless fitted correctly

Modifications may help change the look and feel of your car, but they can cause some headaches

Inspired by great British music

Two bespoke commissions are to be created in support of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Rolls-Royce has announced that it will be creating a series of collaborations, the first of which made with rock band The Who's Roger Daltrey.

Nine Wraith 'Inspired by British Music' cars will be produced in partnership with legends of the British music scene. A portion of the value of each car will then go to charities including the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Daltrey said: "I am enormously excited at the prospect of raising vital funds and awareness for the Teenage Cancer Trust in collaboration with Rolls-Royce, a true British icon.

The themes, so perfectly expressed by the Rolls-Royce designers in in both cars, are as relevant today as they were when we first performed them.

"I worked hard with the designers to capture the spirit of our songs and what their lyrics mean to fans of all generations.

"I'm certain both cars will serve as the ultimate collectors' pieces for any Who aficionado."

Torsten Müller-Ötvös, chief executive officer at Rolls-Royce cars, said: "It says



Roger Daltrey of 'The Who' designs two of nine Wraith commissions, in support of Teenage Cancer Trust

much about our marque's enduring allure that so many of music's greatest icons have held Rolls-Royce as the ultimate symbol of their success. We are delighted to collaborate with some of Britain's most celebrated rock and vocal musicians on a project that promises to add to this legacy, by creating truly collectable masterpieces while supporting worthy charities." The two Roger Daltrey cars are the first of nine collaborative cars. More details will be revealed once the cars near completion.

Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sheff Wed	26	17	5	4	50	26	56
Sheff Utd	26	15	7	4	51	25	52
St. Pance	26	15	5	5	34	17	50
Bradford City	26	11	12	13	32	21	45
Rochdale	25	14	3	8	40	30	45
Fleetwood	25	11	7	7	36	28	40
Southend Utd	26	10	6	9	37	33	39
Bristol Rvs	26	11	6	9	37	33	39
P. Borough Utd	26	10	6	9	36	28	40
Millwall	25	11	5	9	41	35	41
Cheltenham	26	11	6	9	37	33	39
Oxford Utd	25	9	7	9	29	28	34
Wimbleton	25	8	6	12	35	32	33
Walsall	25	7	10	8	26	33	31
P. Vale	25	8	7	10	27	37	31
Northampton	26	8	12	15	41	30	30
Gillingham	25	8	6	11	32	40	30
M. K. Dons	25	7	11	29	34	28	29
Swindon	26	6	12	12	39	26	28
Shrewsbury	26	5	7	14	25	40	27
Bury	26	6	4	16	36	52	26
Chesham	24	6	4	16	27	45	22
Coventry City	26	9	12	23	37	21	27
Oldham Ath.	24	3	10	11	12	27	19

Vanarama National

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lincoln City	27	17	5	5	39	22	53
Tranmere Rvs	27	15	7	5	36	22	53
Forest G. Rvs	27	15	7	5	36	22	53
Dagenham & R	26	14	8	4	37	31	52
Dover Ath.	26	14	8	4	37	31	52
Barrow	25	10	12	3	41	24	46
Aldershot	28	13	6	9	36	28	45
Grays Ath.	28	11	9	8	45	29	42
Clacton	28	11	9	8	45	29	42
Boreham Wd.	28	11	9	8	30	25	41
Macclesfield	25	12	4	9	36	24	40
Eastleigh	28	12	6	10	37	31	40
Bromley	28	12	5	12	31	38	39
Sutton Utd	26	10	11	10	34	35	38
Wrexham	28	9	11	26	36	53	38
South M. Rvs	27	6	12	13	42	38	37
Torquay Utd	27	8	13	30	38	30	36
Brantford	27	7	14	34	38	30	36
Southport	27	7	14	34	38	30	36
Guiseley	28	6	15	35	42	24	35
Woking	27	6	15	35	42	24	35
N. York City	28	7	18	14	42	24	35
York City	28	4	10	14	25	42	22

Vanarama National North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
AFC Fylde	24	17	5	2	72	32	56
Kidderminster	24	15	4	5	42	27	47
Chorley	24	13	8	3	35	14	47
Salisbury City	24	12	4	8	34	21	44
Tamworth	24	13	4	4	34	21	44
Darlington	24	12	6	5	34	21	44
Grimsby Town	24	12	6	5	34	21	44
Brackley	21	11	6	4	34	22	39
FC Halifax	22	10	5	7	45	31	35
Harrogate	24	10	5	9	41	35	35
Grimsby Town	24	10	5	9	41	35	35
Nuneaton	24	9	7	9	37	35	34
FC of Man.	25	8	10	11	40	31	31
Boston Utd	24	7	10	11	40	31	31
Quinton Asht.	27	7	5	13	43	26	29
Alfreton	23	7	12	42	62	25	25
Worcester City	23	6	11	13	32	24	24
Grimsby Town	24	6	11	13	32	24	24
Grimsby Town	24	6	11	13	32	24	24
S.bridge Celtic	24	4	19	21	57	8	21
Altrincham	23	1	5	17	21	57	8

Evo-Stik League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Buxton	27	14	7	6	46	29	49
Rushall	27	14	7	6	46	29	49
Byfield Spartans	24	14	5	4	25	19	47
Whitby	27	14	5	8	34	29	47
Spennymoor	25	13	6	5	32	30	47
Matlock City	24	13	6	5	32	30	47
Wokingham	27	13	11	3	39	29	47
Grantham	28	12	11	5	47	35	41
Nantwich Town	24	12	10	5	29	26	40
Hednesford	26	12	4	10	34	24	38
Stourbridge	23	11	5	13	35	25	40
Marwell	28	10	9	9	31	28	39
Walsby	24	10	7	11	34	28	37
B.over Sports	26	12	11	3	31	37	37
Warrington	25	11	11	3	39	36	36
Stafford Rgs	23	9	8	6	37	32	35
Keighley	26	10	10	6	34	26	36
Marine	24	8	7	9	31	36	31
Halesowen	24	7	10	25	42	28	28
Frickley Ath.	27	8	15	25	59	26	26
Northwood	27	8	15	25	59	26	26
Corby	27	6	17	22	47	28	28
Skeiston	24	5	16	21	47	18	21
Stale Utd	25	3	7	15	25	16	16

Division One South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shaw Lane	20	14	5	1	47	14	47
Spalding Utd	24	15	7	5	44	24	47
Leek	24	12	7	5	38	32	43
Newcastle	23	13	2	8	36	29	41
Rushden & D.	21	10	6	10	36	33	39
Basford Utd	24	11	7	6	46	37	39
Witton Athletic	16	11	3	2	39	14	38
Sheff Wed	26	10	6	10	42	36	36
Nantwich Town	24	13	4	7	46	37	39
S.bridge P.D.	22	10	4	8	32	29	34
Belper	24	8	9	7	30	27	33
Chesham	24	9	6	9	37	33	33
Beckwith Utd	24	13	4	7	46	37	39
Lincoln Utd	19	8	5	6	27	22	29
Kidsgrove Ath.	25	8	12	40	39	29	29
Stafford	23	9	10	35	41	29	29
Portsmouth	24	11	5	8	46	22	29
North Wick Vic.	25	8	12	37	45	23	23
Mk Drayton	25	7	16	31	51	23	23
Widley Dynamos	27	11	12	28	37	22	22
Rugby	25	4	17	24	44	16	16

Hallmark Security Football League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Whitchurch A.	27	17	4	6	52	29	58
City Liverpool	27	17	4	6	52	29	58
Charnock R.	24	17	2	5	68	31	53
Ltd REMYCA	25	15	6	4	65	42	49
Leasgar	26	11	6	8	46	29	44
S. Bach Utd	24	15	3	6	52	30	48
Widnes	21	12	4	5	50	30	40
Red Foxes	26	11	5	10	45	34	39
St Helens	25	10	5	10	55	35	38
Stockport	25	10	5	10	55	35	38
Cheshire City	24	10	5	10	55	35	38
Silsden	22	10	11	5	51	35	41
Daisy Hill	22	9	10	49	55	30	30
Chadwell	26	8	12	52	64	22	22
Widley Dynamos	26	8	12	52	64	22	22
Holker OB	23	8	4	11	39	49	28
Backup Baro.	24	6	14	27	46	22	22
Blackburn	26	6	16	18	67	22	22
Altrincham	26	6	16	18	67	22	22
Ecclestone	24	2	18	35	86	10	10
Ashton	22	2	19	22	71	5	5

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
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Midland Football League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Alvechurch	27	18	9	4	62	20	59
Lye	26	17	2	7	52	21	55
Westfields	22	14	5	3	58	33	47
Coventry City	24	14	5	5	36	25	45
Spty Khalsa	22	12	4	6	46	28	40
Coventry Utd	25	12	4	9	37	29	40
Heanor	24	11	7	6	43	36	40
St Andrews	24	10	10	6	35	27	37
Cov Spinh	26	10	6	10	50	52	36
Walsall Wood	25	11	2	12	35	41	35
Lobur Utd	26	8	10	48	43	32	32
Quorn	24	12	30	38	45	31	31
Lng Eaton Utd	23	8	6	9	41	45	30
Reocster	26	8	6	11	42	47	30
Highgate Utd	24	8	6	11	42	47	30
Shepshead Dyn	21	8	5	8	35	33	28
Shawbury Utd	27	9	11	17	50	66	28
Sport Swiffs	24	6	7	11	36	45	25
Wulfrunians	24	6	7	11	36	45	25
Bolton Rvs	25	6	12	31	41	21	21
Tivdale	24	5	16	30	57	18	18
Brocton	24	5	16	27	63	18	18

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
B'grave Spitz	29	14	5	0	62	15	47
Leicester	24	12	3	9	59	19	46
HC Warwick	23	12	3	5	63	35	44
Hinckley AFC	18	13	3	2	70	23	42
Lechfield City	20	12	3	5	60	25	42
Cadbury Ath.	22	11	3	4	43	27	35
Litton	22	11	3	4	43	27	35
Bolton Rvs	21	11	9	4	49	31	34
Heather St J.	20	10	3	7	47	37	33
Cov C'wood	22	8	4	10	47	50	28
Uxeter	21	8	10	37	43	27	27
Health Hayer	20	8	11	38	21	31	27
Chesham	22	6	13	41	46	21	21
Pershore	20	5	13	23	49	17	17
Peckham	20	5	13	23	49	17	17
Stafford	23	6	12	31	45	15	15
Stoke New	24	3	17	36	77	15	15
South Utd	19	0	3	16	8	94	3

West Midlands League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Haughmond	24	21	1	2	75	23	64
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55
W. Ton Sp. Com	24	16	7	1	72	25	55

Division 1

Newport	21	13	4	7	71	40	43
Wendlesford	19	13	2	4	71	29	41
Widley	19	13	2	4	71	29	41
Walls	15	10	3	2	49	28	33
Old Raids	20	10	3	2	53	42	33
Worcester	17	9	4	3	73	53	42
Barstow	16	9	4	3	41	26	30
Went	17	6	7	8	29	30	26
Wrens Nest	18	5	2	8	28	21	20
Austhulme	19	5	1	12	42	49	20
Wentworth	18	5	2	11	42	35	20
Wormyromay	19	5	2	12	35	53	17
Stam Dudley	17	4	3	12	27	48	17
C Stamford	17	4	3	10	41	63	12
Kingdon	16	3	3	12	47	49	10
Went Martins	16	3	3	12	27	61	10

Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hereford LC	18	11	3	4	66	29	36
Newport	19	11	3	4	66	29	36
Wendlesford	18	10	3	5	44	22	33
Widley	18	10	3	5	44	22	33
Walls	16	9	2	5	32	32	29
Old Raids	18	8	2	8	44	42	26
Worcester	15	7	3	5	32	26	24
Barstow	15	7	3	5	32	26	24
Went	15	7	3	5	32	26	24
Wentworth	15	7	2	6	31	33	23
Wormyromay	15	6	3	6	34	35	21
Stam Dudley	14	5	3	7	26	48	19
C Stamford	17	5	4	8	40	56	19
Kingdon	17	5	4	8	40	56	19
Went Martins	12	1	5	16	8	8	8
Went Sports	15	2	12	43	8	8	8

St Martins pay price for more mistakes

NEW boss Dan Stevens saw his first game in charge of struggling St Martins abandoned late on following a serious injury to one of his players against West Midlands League Division One promotion-chasers Newport Town.

Stevens, the former FC Oswestry Town and Ellesmere chief, was appointed manager as the Saints bid to shake off the threat of relegation.

Previous boss Craig Rogers has taken over as the club's director of football.

It proved a tough start for the new manager whose side were 3-0 down to their second-placed hosts before the game was abandoned late on after a visiting player suffered a suspected broken leg.

With just nine minutes remaining, the result will stand, but the Saints could take heart from running their hosts close in an improved display, only to pay the price for more mistakes.

For Newport, Nick Porter scored twice on 15 and 52 minutes, before Alex Brasenall converted a penalty on the hour, the scoreline a repeat of the 3-0 win away to St Martins earlier in the season.

Propping up the table, the Saints now host Tipton Town at Park Hall on Saturday as they chase much-needed points.

A few days before, St Martins ran out 4-0 winners at Ellesmere Rangers in a friendly with goals from Shawn Melusi, Kieran Barry, Shin Miah and captain Jamie Hands.

Hay hit five to boost their title prospects

HAY ST MARYS Reserves are emerging as genuine contenders for the Watson Financial Mid Wales (South) League title following a 5-0 win at Builth Wells reserves.

Matty Tong scored twice with Rob McNamara, Matt Turrell and Tom Weaver also on target.

In fact, Hay were the only one of the top six to win with leaders, Talgarth Town slipping to a 5-3 defeat at Knighton Town reserves.

Alex Simmons (3) and Kyle O'Shea netted for Talgarth but Iwan Webb (2), Liam Davies, Mark Jones and Connor Bird gave Knighton the spoils to boost their own hopes of honours.

Second-placed Brecon Northcote were held 3-3 at home against St Harmon, who started the day bottom. Joel Evans, the league's leading marksman, bagged a hat-trick for Northcote with Dan Price, Josh Rees and Aaran Bates replying.

Llanidloes Town reserves also fully failed to cash in on Talgarth's slip and needed a late equaliser from Kieron Matthews to salvage a point in a 2-2 draw at Penybont reserves. Dylan Howells had given The Daffs the lead but Daniel Paosilia-Jones and Tommy Farmer hit back for Penybont.

Presteigne reserves went down 2-0 at home against Rhayader Town reserves where goals from Tony Davies and Michael Fowle gave The Red Kites their first win since September.

Risk pays off as Kate wins

KATE WALKER is the queen of Shropshire chess after winning the Minor section at the county's biggest tournament – thanks to some help from YouTube.

Kate, from Shrewsbury, is the first female winner in memory, and perhaps ever, in the history of Shropshire Chess Congress, which began in the early 1970s.

She went into the final round in a commanding position after four straight wins and knowing that she only needed a draw to be guaranteed at least a share of the first prize. And it was in the bag – so long as she was careful – in just 10 moves in a move picked up on the internet.



Scrum time for COBRA's forwards against Bala and (right) second row forward Rhodri Evans gets his side on the attack. ■ Pictures: Trevor Jones.



No new year cheer as COBRA slip again

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA continue to hover just above the relegation zone in rugby's North Wales League division one after slumping 42-8 at home to Bala in their first action of the New Year.

Despite the loss, the Meifod men remain third bottom, helped by the fact there were defeats for Ruthin and Abergele, although Ruthin did pick up a bonus point to reduce the gap to three points.

Bala, going well this season, were always going to prove a handful and steadily posted points on the board, with six tries ensuring they ran out comfortable bonus point winners.

After hoisting themselves out of the bottom two with a crucial 31-13 success against close rivals Colwyn Bay in their last league action of the year, it was a disappointing start to 2017 for COBRA.

They began solidly enough and, despite trailing to a penalty from Rhidian Jones, were back on terms with a penalty themselves.

Bala then got their noses in front with a dubious breakaway try through Gareth Davies which Jones converted for a 10-3 lead.

Jones then kicked a penalty before two tries from the same player before half time put the visitors in charge with a 25-3 advantage.

There was no way back once Llan Rowland crossed soon after the break, Jones converting, and Aron Rowlands then went over for try No5.

COBRA then found a way past a solid defence at the other end when scrum half Bryn Davies chipped through only to be taken out by a late tackle.

Whistle

As the players waited for the referee's whistle, hooker Steve Isaac ran clear to touch down the ball which had rolled into the in-goal area to give the Llanfair side some consolation.

But Bala had the last word with Elgan Evans wrapping up the scoring, with victory lifting the well marshalled visitors up to fourth spot.

The Meifod side struggled to get going, with some poor kicking presenting their visitors with plenty of possession, while they rarely suggested they could find a way through despite their efforts.

COBRA have no league game on Saturday, but have a chance to field some fringe players when they take on Builth Wells at home in the Mid Wales Cup. The following week they visit Bro Ffestiniog as they chase much needed points.

■ ■ ■ ■

WELSHPOOL also started the New Year on a losing note as they succumbed 25-3 at home to high flying Wrexham in the North East Two.

Looking to build on three wins in their last four outings, Pool found their visitors a tough nut to crack, but could take heart from their display.

They pounded Wrexham for long spells, but were met by some defiant defending before the visitors scored their final try with the last play of the game.

Despite the defeat, Pool remain in sixth spot, while Wrexham are one point clear at the summit.

Weshpool's youngsters went down 29-15 to their Rhyl counterparts at Maesdyre in the North Wales Youth League division two.

Eagles' wings are clipped again



Jump to it – James Booth catching ball and (below) Oswestry's man of the match James Roberts

OSWESTRY are still chasing their first win in the South Lancs and Cheshire One after opening the year with a hard-fought 26-3 loss at Liverpool St Helens.

After suffering 12 straight defeats to fall adrift at the foot of the table, the Eagles halted the slump with a morale-boosting 15-15 draw at home to a seasoned Southport side in their last action of the year.

But they found the fourth placed Merseysiders a tough nut to crack as they slipped to defeat in the opening game of 2017, leaving them still looking for a first win as they prepare to host third placed Manchester on Saturday.

Oswestry's plans were disrupted with players missing or pulling out late on, and they were caught cold when their Liverpool hosts broke through to score an unconverted try almost right from the kick off.

The visitors were forced into some excellent defence, but held firm with timely clearances from full back Luca Owen Youens.

With the game swinging back and forth, both teams showed great determination in attack and defence, but Liverpool St Helens wanted the ball a bit more as they forced the Eagles into some silly

mistakes.

And the hosts capitalised with another score courtesy of a pushover try after pounding the Oswestry defence, with the conversion added for a 12-0 interval advantage.

The Eagles were still in the game after the break, and showed that they could compete in this

tough league with a tremendous performance despite being unable to seize their opportunities.

James Roberts pulled off some outstanding tackles to prevent some certain tries, while the Oswestry pack were now getting to grips with the game.

They attacked the home line determined to score an elusive try, but were denied by the Merseysiders whose tactics saw them receive two yellow cards and a red for obstruction and foul play.

Although the try did not come, the visitors did manage a penalty to leave the final score 26-3 to Liverpool St Helens.

The Lanyard Bowdler man-of-the-match honour went to James Roberts for outstanding

commitment to this very hard game.

OSWESTRY II went down 69-17 to Crewe and Nantwich II in the North West Freshet League division four south. Lying fourth bottom, they look to bounce back away to fifth placed Congleton on Saturday.

The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

CARDEN PARK

Ladies' Winter League: P Austin 27; A James 25; S Norman 25.

Winter Waite: J McGrath, T Gooding and C Chamley 48pts; A James, A Jones and G Duncan 46.

Stableford (15 Holes): A James 26; J Wadsworth 22; A Jones 22.

Captain's Drive (in 14 Holes): H Groves 28; S Norman 26; J McGrath 24.

Christmas Fayre (9 Holes): A Jones 22; L Robinson 17; T Gooding 17.

CHURCH STRETTON

December Winter Stableford Division 1: N Jones 40pts; I Sturdy 37pts; G Hughes 37pts. Division 2: M Wells 37pts; J Heiron 34pts; T Davies 33pts.

December Extra Stableford Division 1: G Chadwick 41pts; C Mansell 39pts; M Redmond 38pts. Division 2: M Cope 38pts; K Hartley 38pts; R Brown 36pts.

December Monthly Stableford Division 1: P D Simmonds 42pts; P Rogers 38pts; C Watson 36pts. Division 2: P Freegard 43pts; M Redmond 40pts; R Laddy 38pts.

Christmas Fayre No 3: M Gough 39pts; M Robinson 38pts; M Wells 37pts.

December Extra Stableford Division 1: N J Kelly 38pts; T Tyson 37pts; C Watson 36pts. Division 2: M Wells 41pts; J Osborne 36pts; M Cope 35pts.

Ladies' December Stableford: C Jones 33pts; S Nichols 27pts; J Heath 26pts.

November Stableford: S Nichols 35pts; B Townley 28pts; J Challinor 23pts.

Seniors' December Wine Stableford: P Jenkins 40pts; M Moores 40pts; J Saul 38pts.

December Monthly Stableford: P Perry 40pts; A Price 40pts; P Jenkins 36pts.

November Wine Stableford: P Freegard 36pts; A Price 35pts; D Mitchell 35pts.

November Monthly Stableford: P Perry 37pts; M Foster 34pts; P Jenkins 32pts.

HAWKSTONE PARK

Men's December Medal: I Vickerstaff 90-20c=70; M Shortman 96-24c=72; A Porter 75-2c=73.

Men's & Junior Christmas Stableford Turkey Shoot Division 1: Porter 43pts off 2; S Smith 38pts off 6; J Bee 37pts off 6. Division 2: M Meredith 38pts off 13; W Hollinshead 37pts off 14; S Bartlett 36pts off 13. Division 3: S Rimmer 40pts off 23; J Walker-Smith 39pts off 18; I Vickerstaff 36pts off 20.

Juniors: M Meredith 40pts off 16; J Taylor 34pts off 32; M Moore 32pts off 10.

Seniors' Stableford Division 1: G Campbell 39pts; C Ditty 36pts; T Harrop 35pts. Division 2: P Harris 35pts; C Brown 32pts; A Webb 29pts.

Stableford Division 1: R Jones-Roberts 37pts; R Gleave 36pts; A Moynoux 35pts. Division 2: D Driver de Valle 41pts; G Whitby 30pts; D Samuel 29pts.

MILE END

Christmas Jumper Competition: P Griffiths 42pts; D McKay 41pts; D Wheeler 39pts.

Sunday Social: D Badbury, G Turner, J Cattaneo, T Cartwright 66pts; S Ball, B Sharpe, A Eke, P Eke 65pts; P Cattaneo, M Holmes, R Meyer, B Jones 64pts.

Christmas Social: P Eke, P Cattaneo, B Davies, B Moody 130pts; R Pugh, A Ord, N Rogers, R Meyer 129pts; J Cattaneo, J Roberts, N Tomkinson, S Rogers 123pts.

OSWESTRY

Ladies' AM-AM Stableford (18 Holes/14 Teams): D Mottram, J Edwards, C Swan 90pts; S Wilson, B Bebbington, J Williams 88pts; A Davies, J Jones, S Weaver 84pts; B Wilson, S Watanabe, M Crane 82pts.

9 Hole Individual Stableford: B Wigley 15pts.

Pressure is on in race for honours

THE chase for honours is hotting up in the Montgomeryshire & District Airgun League with leaders Churchstoke being pegged back at the top.

The festive season brought little cheer for 'Stoke who lost both their festive fixtures to their two title rivals Gulsfield A and Ardleen.

With Castle Caereinion, Gulsfield B and Crew Green A all winning their matches to move to within six points of the summit, the pressure is now firmly on the top three.

Very close matches ensued with Gulsfield B taking the spoils at Llanfair by only .2 of a point, and Crew Green A only defeating a Newtown team by .1.

Eight possible scores of 35 were shot during the weeks action, while there was one superb maximum of 35.7 by Steve Smith of Ardleen.

Churchstoke still lead the table, but are level on 18 points with Gulsfield A, while Ardleen are two points behind in third position.

Ellesmere net welcome point

ELLESMERE RANGERS had to settle for a point when they resumed their West Midlands League premier division season as they played out a 2-2 draw with Willenhall.

The result leaves Ellesmere, who host Cradley on Saturday, sixth in the table. Carl Bailey grabbed Ellesmere's opener, before Rangers secured a share of the spoils with a late equaliser from Connor Hughes.

Stalemate, but Town manage to stop the rot

FC OSWESTRY TOWN halted a four-match losing run in the Hallmark North West Counties League Division One with a goal-less stalemate against Stockport Town at Park Hall.

Town remain ninth in the table after a closely fought and at times tetchy encounter that saw 10 bookings, and boss Mike Barton was satisfied with the outcome.

“That result stopped the rot,” he said. “After conceding 17 goals in the previous four games, it was pleasing to keep a clean sheet.

“It was an even, and niggly game after the referee let a few things go early on which he should have clamped down on.

“Stockport are a much changed side with a new manager, they battled hard and overall I think it was a fair result.

“We’ve now got Widnes away on Saturday, which is going to be tough as I felt they were the best side we’ve played when we played them earlier in the season. But our away form is better than our home form, so we will see how we get on.”

Stockport arrived in determined mood after crashing 10-0 at home to high-flying City of Liverpool the previous week, and carved a couple of early openings.

Jude Oyibo drove a left- foot strike high and wide in the third minute, while five minutes later, his cross just evaded the incoming Jonathan Hurst.

The Oswestry side threatened on 28 minutes as Brendon Price released Harrison Millington along the right and his first time cross was met by debutant Kevin Garland who could not steer his header on target.

Four minutes later, a crossfield pass from iRob Shone found Millington who cut into the box before seeing his shot turned round the post by keeper Daniel Whiting.

At the other end, Oyibo’s 25-yard strike was saved by keeper Richard Cowderoy and the visitors went close on 36 minutes as Leon Murphy’s cross from the left found the unmarked Liam Bennion whose goalbound header was clawed over the bar by Cowderoy.

Three minutes after the interval, a Jack Harris header was held by keeper Whiting from a Matthew Jones free-kick, while the hosts went close to breaking the deadlock on 59 minutes as Harris headed against the bar from a Millington cross before the ball was cleared in the ensuing scramble.

Mark German had a headed effort saved by Cowderoy in a Stockport raid, and the home keeper again came to Town’s rescue six minutes from time as he blocked Hurst’s shot with his legs after Oyibo had cut in.

Town now chase a much-needed win when they visit Widnes on Saturday, with the game to be played at Barton FC in Northwich.

■ FC Oswestry Town reserves made a poor start to the year in the Mercian Regional League Division One as they crashed 5-1 at home to title-chasing St Georges United.

THE New Saints Ladies hit the goal trail as they swamped lowly Leicester City Ladies 8-2 at Park Hall to boost their prospects in the FA Women’s Premier League Midlands Division One.

Maddison Jones and Chloe Wilkinson both scored twice as the Saints took charge in the second half to move up to fourth in the table.

Emily Ridge, Laura Morris and Emma Roden also found the net along with an own goal.

TNS under-19s, meanwhile, remain two points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier Development League (north) after winning 3-1 at Rhyli.

They look to maintain their form on Sunday at Conwy Borough who themselves slumped 6-1 at home to second placed Bangor City.

Goal spree has Ladies looking up

Llanfair slip to defeat at the seaside

LLANFAIR United’s losing run continued as they succumbed 4-2 at Porthmadog to slide towards the basement pack in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance - their fourth successive defeat.

It was honours even in a goalless first half, although Port carved the better chances only to find Chris Brown in fine form between the posts with a series of saves that included a penalty stop in the 33rd minute.

But Llanfair took the lead three minutes after the break through James Davies who converted at the back post from a Marc Jones free kick.

The goal sparked Porthmadog into life and they were level through Chris Jones before substitute Josh Davies gave the hosts the lead with a shot from just inside the area midway through the half.

Hopes of retrieving the game faded when Llanfair had Luke Gethin sent off after a second yellow card offence, and Port capitalised as Davies headed his second from a corner before completing his hat trick from the penalty spot on 82 minutes.

James Davies made it 4-2 late on with a well taken effort after an exchange of passes with Andrew Hughes before Porthmadog also picked up a red card for a second yellow.

Defeat leaves Llanfair fourth from bottom, and anxiously looking over their shoulders at their basement rivals.

“Porthmadog are a decent side, and I can’t knock the boys who kept going and put in a shift,” said boss Rhys Stephens.

United were in action on Wednesday night when they took on Waterloo Rovers at Welshpool in the third round of the Central Wales Cup before entertaining Flint Town United in the league on Saturday (2pm).

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Guils shell-shocked by a quick-fire blast

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

GUILDSFIELD paid the price for a nightmare start as they lost ground on the leading pack in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after suffering a 5-3 loss at Denbigh Town.

The damage was soon done as the Guils found themselves four goals down inside a shocking first 12 minutes as the game quickly slipped away.

In a disastrous opening for the visitors, former Leicester City teenager Arron Hassall netted a quickfire hat-trick as Denbigh got off to a fier, with Gareth Partridge also finding the net.

Jake Cook pulled one back with a 62nd minute penalty, only for Denbigh to restore their four-goal advantage through Jake Eyre.

The Guils did gain some consolation with a couple of late replies from substitute Adam Jenkins in 83 and 84 minutes.

They remain fifth despite the loss, but are 11 points off second spot and 20 points adrift of run-away leaders Prestatyn.

“It was a game we should be winning, and all we can do now is to try and finish as high as we can,” said boss Dan Barton.

“The way we started the game was unacceptable, we need to show more character.”

Guilsfield could hardly have made a worse start as Hassall’s 25-yard screamer flew past keeper Dave Littleford after just three minutes.

His second on six minutes was made by Partridge as he found space to play in Hassall whose curling shot took a slight deflection to loop over Littleford.

On 12 minutes Partridge added a third as he was given plenty of time to shoot from 20 yards before Hassall sealed his hat-trick on 14 minutes when Andrew Swarbrick created space to lay a perfect ball onto the striker to slot past Littleford again from 12 yards.

Guilsfield looked to make amends, going close to a reply with a shot from outside the penalty area that skimmed the bar.

The first half then became a more even contest with Denbigh playing at a fast tempo and with Guilsfield’s defence tightening up.

The second half saw a more determined effort from the visitors as they looked to peg back the score.

On 62 minutes a strong Tony Davies challenge on Guilsfield forward Jack Richards was deemed a foul by referee Rob Jenkins and a penalty was awarded. Cook scored from the spot to make it 4-1 and give Guilsfield a glimmer of hope.

They continued to push forward but on 80 minutes were punished when Town’s Craig Pritchard broke free and crossed to an unmarked Jake Eyre who made it 5-1.

Substitute Jenkins knocked the ball in to make it 5-2 on 84 minutes. A minute later the same player was on hand to pull back a third from a cross to make for a nervous finish for the home side.

Meanwhile, Mark Griffiths made a welcome return from injury to help CAERSWS to a 1-0 home win over Buckley Town to boost prospects of a top three finish.

The front runner had missed much of the campaign with back and ankle problems, but played the full 90 minutes while also scoring the only goal of the game six minutes before half-time.

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Fair Play! The New Saints net bonus

Captains take over at Llangollen



From left: Lady captain Steph Evans, club president Ken Williams and men's captain David Griffiths

MEMBERS turned out in force as Llangollen Golf Club welcomed their new captains into office for the year ahead.

The new men’s captain is David Griffiths, a member of long standing, locally born and bred and a single figure player, while Steph Evans is the new lady captain, having represented Wales and GB and who plays off low single figures. Their chosen charities, bowel and breast cancer, will hope that they can match, or even exceed, last year’s £10, 000 total.

Buckley were reduced to 10 men when Asa Hamilton was dismissed for dissent with 15 minutes remaining, and the Bluebirds saw out the game.

PENRRHYNCOCH took another step towards league survival as Jonny Evans’ 11th minute strike secured a precious 1-0 success over basement rivals Conwy Borough.

Saturday’s fixtures (kick off 2.30pm unless stated)
Buckley Town v Porthmadog, Conwy Borough v Prestatyn Town, Guilsfield v Gresford Athletic, Holywell Town v Holyhead Hotspur, Llanfair United v Flint Town United (2), Mold Alex v Penrhyncoch, Ruthin Town v Caersws (2).

■ Kai Edwards has returned to the Welsh Premier League with gap Connah’s Quay just six months after quitting The New Saints to join Wrexham.

Edwards, 25, was linked with a move to the Nomads during the summer before accepting an offer to rejoin Wrexham, where he started his career.

Voted Welsh Premier young player of the season for 2011/12, he signed for TNS in June 2012 but, after four successful seasons at Park Hall, returned to Wrexham last summer.

Edwards, who scored his first Wrexham goal on Boxing Day and made 24 appearances for the Dragons, has scored 12 goals in the Welsh Premier from 169 (+4) appearances.

“Kai has gone to Connah’s Quay. He has come in and done well, I was playing him at right-back, he didn’t want to play there, he saw himself as a centre-half and there was an offer that came in for him,” said Wrexham manager Dean Keates.

“I put it to the lad and he expressed a wish to consider it, and again it is football.”

Llanrhaeadr leave it late to confirm Cup passage

TWO late goals took Llanrhaeadr through to the fourth round of the Central Wales Cup with a determined 2-0 passage away to in-form Kerry.

Llan were made to battle all the way in heavy conditions against a side flying high one level below in the Spar Mid Wales League Division Two.

Much of the encounter had been a stalemate, before the introduction of substitutes Marc Griffiths and Dale Evans turned the game.

Griffiths almost broke the deadlock 10 minutes from time only to head against the post, but the front man was not to be denied on 87 minutes when latching onto an Iain Edmunds cross, before turning to steer his shot into the corner of the net.

Victory was sealed in the last minute when Iwan Matthews broke onto a ball from Ben White before smashing home from an acute angle.

BERRIEW’s unbeaten 17-match winning run that stretched four months came to an end after suffering a last-gasp 3-2 loss at Llanidloes Town.

The Rhiewsidrers had twice led through Dave Roberts and Steff Rogers, but were downed by Gareth Owen, George Clarke and an own goal following an Ed Clarke corner.

LLANSANTFFRAID Village also made the fourth round after seeing off Spar League rivals Newbridge 4-1 at Treflan.

Hat-tricks from Harry Holt and Peter Rees steered Carno to a comfortable 8-2 passage against Montgomeryshire League high fliers LLANFYLLIN, Richie Evans notching the other two goals.

A brace from Joey Price, including a terrific free-kick, saw Radnor Valley progress with a 2-1 verdict at home to Llandrindod Wells.

Hay St Mary’s bowed out 5-4 at Machynlleth, while there was also an early exit for Bow Street who succumbed 2-1 at Borth United.

Richard Powell scored twice as title-chasing Rhayader Town overcame local rivals Builth Wells 4-1, Ifan Burrell and Christian Jones also on target.

Churchstoke progressed 3-1 at Trewern United, all the goals coming in the second half, while LLANYMYNECH’s home tie with Aberaron was postponed due to an unfit pitch.

MONTGOMERY cast aside their struggles in the Spar Mid Wales League with a 6-0 trouncing of Guilsfield who fielded their reserve team for the tie.

Dolgellau progressed without kicking a ball in anger as scheduled opponents Presteigne withdrew from their encounter.

FOUR CROSSES eased their basement concerns in the Spar Mid Wales League Division Two with a timely 4-3 home success over rock bottom Penybont that lifted the Foxen Manor side up to eighth in the table.

A TERRIFIC second half display took Llanfair United reserves into the Newtown AFC League Cup semi-final with a gutsy 3-1 third round success at Waterloo Rovers.

Llanfair went behind after 25 minute, but just before half-time, and against the run of play, they equalised through Ashley Davies, and the same player made it 2-1 after the break when he chipped the keeper from 25 yards.

Llanfair sealed their place in the last four when Toby Evans converted a fine Tim Dowling cross.

MEIFOD, meanwhile, moved four points clear at the top of the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one with a 2-1 home verdict against Caersws reserves.

Results
JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League Division One: Meifod 2 Caersws Res 1. Division Two: Abermule Res 4 Waterloo Rovers Res 2, Newtown Wanderers 0 Bishop’s Castle 5, Trefleign 3 Kerry Res 1.

Newtown AFC League Cup round three: Waterloo Rovers 1 Llanfair United Res 3.

Davies at the double to seal place in semi



Season has gone now, says Barton

GUILDSFIELD manager Dan Barton says his side's defeat at Denbigh Town has put paid to any chance of challenging the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance leaders.

Four goals inside the first 12 minutes saw the Guils crash 5-3, with former Leicester City teenager Arron Hassall firing a rapid hat-trick.

The Guils now look to pick up the pieces at home to Gresford Athletic on Saturday (2.30pm), and Barton will be looking for a big improvement.

They are now down to seventh in the table, 11 points off second spot and 20 adrift of runaway leaders Prestatyn.

"The season's gone now, all we can hope to do is to try and finish as high as we can," said the Guils boss. "I was furious at half-time – I seriously thought about quitting, but have calmed down a bit now."

"The start was not good enough, we did not work hard enough to track them and close down, and were punished."

"It was a freak result. Everything they hit went in, they had a couple of deflections, but these are the games we need to be winning."

"The only positive was that we responded pretty well in the second half."

Andy Ford returns as Barton ponders changes, with Adam Jenkins pressing for a start after scoring twice as substitute.

Guilsfield also bowed out of the Central Wales Cup, their second string crashing 6-0 at Montgomery.

LLANFAIR UNITED face a tough home meeting with in-form Flint Town United (2pm) as they look to halt their slump. A 4-2 loss at Porthmadog, their fourth successive defeat, saw Llanfair slip to fourth from bottom.

"Porthmadog are a decent side, and I can't knock the boys," said manager Rhys Stephens. "The difference between the teams was the quality of the benches. They brought on Josh Davies and he showed his class with a hat-trick."

"But we kept going and put in a shift. There's still a long way to go."

Luke Gethin is suspended after being sent off against Porthmadog.

New Saints aiming to land four-timer

AFTER sweeping all before them, The New Saints remain on course to register a record third successive domestic treble this year – or even a possible quadruple.

As well as having another Welsh Premier title in their grasp, the Saints can land their first trophy of the campaign a week on Saturday (January 21) when they take on Barry Town in the final of the Nathaniel MG Cup in Cardiff.

Then, the week after, Craig Harrison's men will look to keep their flag flying in the Welsh Cup with a fourth round tie at home to Llanelli. They also have an IRN BRU Scottish Challenge Cup semi-final to look forward at St Mirren on Sunday, February 19 (4.10pm).

The other semi-final, between Queen of the South and Dundee United, will be contested the day before, with the final will be played on the weekend of March 25/26. Having been invited to take part in a new-look Scottish Challenge Cup, TNS have already beaten Forfar Athletic (3-1) and Livingston (3-0).

Legend Edwards is coming to dinner

SHAUN Edwards, a rugby legend in both union and league, will be special guest at Oswestry Rugby Club's dinner later this year.

The Wales assistant coach all be attending the annual sportsman event at the Granville Park club on Saturday, March 4.

"It promises to be a cracking night with a true rugby legend in both codes joining us, and tickets are selling fast," said a club spokesman.

Edwards is a former rugby league player and current rugby union coach with Wales, a post he has held since 2008.

He made his name as a rugby league half back, playing for Wigan where he won a record eight

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

championships and a record nine Challenge Cups.

Edwards also played 36 times for Great Britain as well as representing England.

Meanwhile, Oswestry look to find the winning formula in the South and Lancs Cheshire One when they host Manchester on Saturday.

After halting their slump with a 15-15 draw at home to Southport in their last action of the year, the Eagles started 2017 with a 26-3 loss at Liverpool St Helens - their 13th defeat in 14 outings.

Coach Dan Samuels says the performance

shows that the team, currently propping up the table, are not far away from a long overdue win.

"The little things made the difference," he said. "We had the same opportunities to score as they did, except they took theirs and we didn't. "We talked about why, and the boys know what they've got to do. There's lots to work on and build on. We need to keep our chins up, look forward and move forward. Every game is a winnable game."

Points will be tough this weekend against a Manchester side lying third in the table. They showed their credentials last week with a 60-5 thumping of Manchester Medics, who were promoted last season along with Oswestry.

TNS LOOKING AT NEW FACES

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints may have set a new world record for consecutive top flight wins – but boss Craig Harrison is not resting on his laurels as he looks to bolster his triumphant squad.

The runaway Dafabet Welsh Premier leaders are well on course to seal their sixth successive title, and 11th in their history, after cementing their 21-point lead at the top with a 2-0 victory at Cefn Druids in their last action.

That success saw them register a world record 27th successive victory in all competitions this term, eclipsing the 26-game winning streak set by Johan Cruyff's magnificent Ajax outfit of 1972. They have scored 88 goals and conceded just 13.

It secured the Saints a place in the Guinness Book of World Records and earned media plaudits across the globe, but Harrison still wants to strengthen his hand now that the transfer window is open.

"I'm always looking to strengthen the squad if the right players become available, and I'm hoping to bring in one, maybe two new signings before the end of the month," he said.

"This is the best squad I've been involved with since I've been with the club, but you can't sit still and we have to look to continue to improve."

Next up is a visit to struggling Newtown on Saturday (5.15) in their last Dafabet Welsh Premier outing before the league split, a side they have already defeated twice this season.

"The players are fresh, they've had five days off, and are hungry to keep the run going. It will be nice to put the league to bed as soon as possible, but Newtown will be a tricky game," added Harrison.

"They will get men behind the ball, and look to counter. We expect that, and it's something we come up against in a lot of games."

"After Newtown, we've got a nice little run of games coming up now, with Barry Town in the League Cup final the following Saturday, and then Llanelli the week after in the Welsh Cup which we're looking forward to."

50-year milestone for Pool



Welshpool's captain Joe Stranks passed the ball out from a scrum. Picture: Gary Williams.

WELSHPOOL Rugby Club is preparing for a big year as it celebrates the 50-year anniversary since their very first match.

As part of the events to mark the date of its first game on September 2, 1967, the club is producing a book on its history. And the Maesydre club are looking for past players to contribute to a section in the book which reflects on who the best players were to play for the team.

"We're looking for ex-players' thoughts on who was the best player they played with at Welshpool for a section in the club's history book, said a spokesperson.

Welshpool, who started the New Year on a losing note as they succumbed 25-3 at home to high flying Wrexham in the North East Two, have no league game this weekend. The following Saturday, they visit improving Machynlleth.

COBRA have no league game on Saturday, but have a chance to field some fringe players when they take on Builth Wells at home in the Mid Wales Cup.

The following week they visit Bro Ffestiniog as they chase much needed points in their battle to escape relegation from the North Wales League division one.

Llan pair to miss clash with Tywyn

LLANRHAeadr have been hit by suspensions this weekend as they look to make their mark in the Spar Mid Wales League division one, writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.

Currently lying sixth, Llan visit lowly Tywyn Bryncrug on Saturday (2pm), as they bid to put the pressure on the leading pack – but will be without Dan Kelly and Kieran Evans through bans.

They are one of five clubs from the Spar Mid Wales League who have applied for promotion back to the Huws Gray Alliance next season. The others are league leaders Berriew, Carno, Rhayader Town and Knighton Town, along with Welsh National League side Chirk AAA.

Berriew boss David Jones said: "It is the club's ambition to regain its Alliance status," while Llanrhaeadr chairman Phil Roberts added: "We enjoyed our time in the Alliance and we look forward to be able to compete at that level again."

Berriew, who suffered a first loss in four months when beaten 3-2 at Llanidloes Town in the Central Wales Cup last weekend, aim to bounce back at Hay St Mary's on Saturday. The Rhiesiders are currently top on goal difference.

Challenge

"It's disappointing that the run has come to an end, but to go four months without losing is a fantastic effort by the players," added Jones.

"The challenge now is to make sure we bounce back straight away next Saturday in what will be a very tough league game at Hay who are a good side."

"We have an awful lot to play for as we are in the quarter-final of both the league cup and Montgomeryshire Cup, and of course we are top of the league."

"It will be very tough for us to remain top as we have six very difficult away games out of our last eight fixtures, but we are top for a reason and we will give it our best shot."

Elsewhere, **WELSHPOOL** face a crunch home clash with Llandrindod Wells on Saturday (2.30pm) as they battle to climb clear of relegation danger.

Llanymynech will try again when they host Aberaeron in round three of the Central Wales Cup on Saturday (1.30pm) after the initial staging was postponed due to an unfit pitch.

Cricket ace Jones is at Morda Road

ASHES hero Simon Jones will be in Shropshire in March to share stories from his cricketing career.

The former England bowler, a member of the squad that defeated Australia in the legendary 2005 series, is a special guest at Oswestry Cricket Club.

Jones played just 18 Tests but managed 59 wickets at a fine average of 28.23 and will go down as one of his country's great unfulfilled talents.

An Evening With... is being held on Friday, March 24 at the Morda Road club.

For information and tickets, which cost £20 (including hot food), contact Hugh Roberts on 07971963016.



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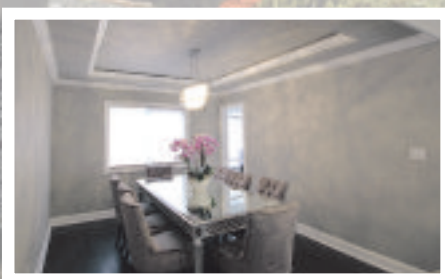
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